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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-195
Tuesday
10 October 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Palestinian Expulsion 'Crisis'

More Palestinians Arrive in Border Area

LD0510113095 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1052 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tubruq, 5 Oct — More Arab Palestinian families flocked yesterday in droves to Amsa'd area in a spontaneous movement, thus stressing their determination and resolve to carry out their decision to return to Palestine, and their historic and legitimate right which the West and the Israelis are trying to take away from them with cheques and documents of capitulation.

The Palestinian Arab families present in the area of the imaginary borders between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt yesterday expressed their rejection of the situation which the dispersed Palestinian people are enduring and also their desire to return to the land of Palestine at whatever cost.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Musa Meet on Border

NC0610210795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 6 Oct (MENA)—Libyan Revolution Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in the al-Butnan area on the Libyan-Egyptian border this evening.

Musa handed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi a message from President Husni Mubarak dealing with the current Arab situation, especially the plight of the Palestinians in Libya.

Political observers say Egypt has a clear interest in ending this crisis [expulsion of Palestinians from Libya] due to its concern to push the peace process forward to the satisfaction of all parties.

Musa Comments on Libya Visit

NC0710094495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that positive developments are expected in the issue of the Palestinian deportees from Libya.

He added that these developments emanate from the Libyan Arab responsibility and the joint Arab role in safeguarding the elements of the Palestinian issue until matters concerning the Palestinian track become clear.

In exclusive statements to MENA today, the foreign minister said he conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi yesterday. He added that his talks with the Libyan leader dealt with various issues, including developments in the Palestinian issue and the Lockerbie crisis. He noted that other issues were also discussed during the meeting.

In his statements 'Amr Musa said there was understanding concerning the various issues discussed with the Libyan side. He added that the Libyan leader pointed to the extreme importance of the Egyptian view of developments in the region, particularly on the Palestinian track. He said the Libyan leader's understanding of issues was clear and it is expected that positive developments will occur.

The foreign minister stressed that reports of a military buildup on the Egyptian-Libyan border are baseless.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 0816 GMT on 7 October adds the following: "Palestinians trapped in no man's land between Libya and Egypt closed the border to passage in protest at their plight, a border official here said on Saturday [7 October].

["The official at Egypt's al-Sallum border post said some 200 Palestinians set up tires and iron barriers on the road leading between the borders late Friday then slept in the road.

["The Palestinians demanded to be allowed to 'return home' to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the official said.

["The road remained closed Saturday morning as officials from al-Sallum or the Libyan post of Masa'id did not intervene, he said. It was the second time that the Palestinians had closed the road."]

JANA: Palestinians Reaffirm Decision To Leave

LD0710174995 Tripoli JANA in English 1723 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Spelling and punctuation as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Tumur [October] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Palestinian families in the area of Amsa'ad, who are waiting for permission to continue their journey to Palestine, asserted that they took voluntarily the decision to return to Palestine. They added that they took the deicision out of the absolute belief in the need to expose the imperialist plans aimed at settling the Palestinians abroad so as to enable the Israeli Enemy to remain in Palestine.

AL-SHAMS newspaper published interviews with some Palestinian families in which they stressed that they took the decision to return and were fed up of living away from their homeland.

The Palestinian National 'Umar Akhdir, from Gaza and father of five children, said 'I have been prevented from crossing and entering my homeland despite the fact that all his papers were in order. He asked 'I am no longer entitled to my right to my country while it is allowed for the Israelis to this.

The Palestinian national Asmar Musa urged the international community to help the Palestinians to cross to and return to their homeland. He said 'We would like to the world to know that we support and insist on our return. This is our decision which we took voluntarly without any pressure. We thank the Libyan Arab people who helped us throughout the past and welcomed us extending to us all love and fraternity.

He pointed out 'No one can make any claims against the stances of the Great Jamahiriyah towards our central issue- Palestine. For the Great Jamahiriyah stood by us in times of need and hardship for which we will be grateful for ever.

The Palestinian National Imad al-Rashrash declared 'The border posts we find on our way to our country have no right to prevent us from continuing our journey.'

Problem Reportedly Solved

NC0810214195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2055 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports in its Monday [10 October] issue that President Husni Mubarak's efforts have succeeded in settling differences between Libya and the Palestinian authorities and in solving the problem of Palestinians deported by Libya.

The paper cites Palestinian officials as expressing appreciation and deep thanks to President Mubarak for persuading Libya to resolve the crisis.

AL-AHRAM cites a senior Palestinian official in Gaza as saying that an agreement was reached to return 100 Palestinian families to Gaza in the next few days, but Libya will rescind its decision and allow the remaining Palestinian deportees to return to Libya.

The paper says that some 23 Palestinian families coming from Libya arrived at Allenby Bridge between Jordan and Jericho today (Sunday) on their way to Gaza.

On the same subject, AL-AKHBAR says in its Monday issue that President Mubarak and Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held a telephone conversation during Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Libya. The paper cites ranking sources as saying that the problem of the deported Palestinians is on its way to a solution, and that some of the deportees will be moved to Gaza.

The sources expect a meeting between President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi soon to review bilateral ties and Arab issues. AL-AKHBAR says developments in the Lockerbie crisis and the resulting suffering of the Libyan people will also be discussed in the meeting. [passage omitted]

Deportees Cross Into Gaza Strip

JN0810175195 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1700 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A group of Palestinians expelled from Libya has crossed the King Husayn Bridge on their way to the Gaza Strip. The group of 48 arrived in al-'Aqabah yesterday.

A security official said they were given all the necessary assistance for their return home. Libya has expelled thousands of Palestinians, and hundreds are still stranded on the Egyptian-Libyan border.

Arab League Envoy: Libya Expulsions 'Unreasonable'

JN0910170795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1400 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Subayh, Palestine envoy to the Arab League, expressed optimism that the crisis of Palestinians expelled from Libya will be settled following the efforts of President Yasir 'Arafat, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Morrocan King Hasan II, Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, and the Arab League.

In a statement to our radio, Subayh said it is unreasonable for Libya to fabricate this new tragedy for the Palestinian people and to build a new camp for Palestinians in the heart of the desert at a time when there is talk about Arab reconciliation and a revitalization of Arab solidarity.

Arab Rights Group Urges Libya To Stop Expulsions

NC0910134495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1320 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—The Arab Organization for Human Rights [AOHR] has appealed to the Libyan leadership to stop the mass expulsion of Palestinians.

The AOHR issued a statement today urging the Arab countries to shoulder their responsibility toward the

Palestinians and seek to return them to their country, Palestine, in line with UN resolutions.

The AOHR added: Regardless of the Libyan Government's justifications for its expulsion decision, its consequences will only mean greater hardship for the Palestinians and an intensification of their human tragedy.

UN Group Concerned About Deported Palestinians

JN0710152795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued today in Gaza by the Information Bureau of the UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] says that 36 Palestinians deported from Libya have been stranded for almost one and a half months on the Palestinian-Egyptian borders at the Rafah crossing point. In its statement, UNRWA voices concern for the fate of these refugees.

PLO's Qaddumi Voices 'Gratitude' for Support

LD0810184195 Tripoli JANA in English 1826 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Timour [Oct] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO's Political Department, expressed the gratitude of the Palestinian people for the unlimited support provided by the great al-Fatih revolution, since the advent of the revolution in 1969, to the Palestinian people's struggle.

In a statement in Tunis yesterday, Qaddumi asserted 'We cannot deny the support of the great al-Fatih revolution, since its inception, and its leader to the Palestinian people's struggle.

Qaddumi pointed out 'the Palestinian issue is in essence an international political issue which the Israeli enemy should bear responsiblity for its intransigence and not allowing the Palestinian displaced refugees to return to Palestine. Also the international community should shoulder the responsibility for the non compliance of the Israeli enemy with the resolutions 237 and 194 concerning the [words indistinct] and refugees.

Libya's Demand for Labor Union Meeting Rejected

NC0910151395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1444 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian General Federation of Labor Unions [GFLU] has turned down a request to hold a meeting for the Central Council of the International Federation of Arab Labor Unions [IFALU] in Cairo this week.

The Union of Producers in Libya had called for holding this "extraordinary and urgent" meeting in Tripoli, Libya, to discuss recent developments in the Palestinian issue. Syria expressed reservations on holding it in Tripoli and proposed that it be held in Cairo.

CFLU Chairman al-Sayyid Rashid today telephoned IFALU Secretary General Hasan Hamam and conveyed the CFLU's regret at being unable to hold the meeting in Cairo in view of its officials' preoccupation with preparations for the People's Assembly elections.

The IFALU has its headquarters in Damascus.

Palestinian Affairs

Cabinet Discusses 'Arafat-Peres Meeting

JN0710145995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat chaired the weekly session of the National Authority Cabinet at the Presidency in Gaza today. The session was largely devoted to President 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, which will be held near the Erez checkpoint this evening.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, said President 'Arafat and Peres will discuss three major issues: The release of Palestinian male and female prisoners from Israeli occupation jails, the timetable of the redeployment outside populated areas in the West Bank, and expanding the area of Jericho. Dr. 'Urayqat said the agreement signed recently in Washington stipulates that the first batch of those to be released will include all female prisoners, old and sick people, and those who have served two thirds of their prison terms. The agreement also stipulates that redeployment shall begin 10 days after the signing of the agreement and end in December. 'Urayqat added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin promised to give a positive answer regarding the expansion of the Jericho city area.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, said the National Authority is ready to assume powers and responsibilities in the West Bank. He noted that President 'Arafat's meeting with Peres is meant to begin an accurate and honest implementation of the agreement signed in Washington. Dr. Sha'th said the cabinet discussed preparations for the Amman economic summit. A ministerial committee will meet under President 'Arafat tomorrow to prepare for this summit. The committee includes Dr. Sha'th, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Ahmad Quray', and Furayh Abu-Middayn.

The cabinet also discussed the elections law that will be presented to political and popular forces for endorsement, as well as a law of societies and another for the structuring of ministries. Dr. Sha'th said the cabinet approved a new budget for the authority in the West Bank.

President 'Arafat briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his recent tour which included several Arab and foreign countries.

'Arafat: Knesset Endorsement of Taba 'Expected'

JN0610125695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat performed Friday prayers today at the al-'Abbas mosque in Hayy al-Rimal in Gaza. [passage omitted]

Before the Friday prayers, President 'Arafat praised the sacrifices of Arab soldiers who fought in the October war on the Palestinian, Egyptian, and Syrian fronts under the command of Field Marshal Ahmad Isma'il.

At a flag-raising ceremony held by the Egyptian representation office to the National Authority on the October war anniversary, President 'Arafat added: I am still proud that we fought as part of one Arab army. [passage omitted]

On another level, President 'Arafat hoped that Israel would comply with the timetable for redeployment in the rest of the West Bank. The president noted that redeployment would begin within a few days.

On the Israeli Knesset's endorsement of the Taba accord, which was signed in Washington, President 'Arafat said this was expected. I did not think they could reject what we have agreed on, he added. The president said the Israelis have endorsed the Declaration of Principles in all its phases.

'Urayqat Reacts to Knesset Ratification of Taba

JN0610130795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1105 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Report from the "With the Midday Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority [PA], believes that the Knesset's ratification of the Oslo B agreement with a difference of one vote has to do with Israel's policy on the domestic level.

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] We as Palestinians signed an agreement with the Israeli Government, which negotiated with us and ratified the agreement under a distinguished international presence in Washington. Thus, we realize that these measures and discussions in the Knesset have more to do with the Israeli domestic political arena more than with the Palestinian domestic arena. [end recording]

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat added: We are now in the process of implementing the Declaration of Principles, beginning with redeployment, which is scheduled to begin in two days, followed by elections to elect the head of the executive power and the legislative council. 'Urayqat noted that this will be followed by another redeployment, after which the tackling of the final stage issues will begin on 4 May 1996.

After the Knesset ratified the agreement, the minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority said: We hope that the way will be cleared for the release of the first batch of prisoners, that there will be immediate arrangements for redeployment, and that a committee will be formed to monitor and control this agreement, which will be supervised for the Israeli side by the Israeli Foreign Ministry and for the Palestinian side by a committee that will set up during the PA's weekly meeting tomorrow. We asked Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat if the fact that the Knesset ratified the agreement with a margin of one vote raises the doubts and fears of the Palestinian side that the Likud party will win the upcoming elections. He said:

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] With respect to all that is taking place, whether it is the Likud party or any other party, this is an internal Israeli political issue. However, if the Likud wins the elections, it will either have to change its stand and recognize the PLO—in which case it would not be the Likud—or else cancel the agreement, which is something it cannot do. However, if it does, then we will not have the Middle East we are aspiring for. [end recording]

Official: Start of Implementation 'Not Reassuring'

JN0910132295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a delegation from the European troika at the Presidency in Gaza this morning.

Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman, warned against any delay in implementing the Taba accord, as this would have negative consequences on the peace process.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, said the start of the implementation of the agreement with Israel is not promising and not reassuring, whether regarding the timetable of the withdrawal from populated Palestinian centers or regarding the release of female prisoners.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the clauses of the agreement are crystal clear and do not allow several interpretations, unless there are plans to use arm twisting by some people in Israel who do not like the agreement.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the meeting of the joint Palestinian-Israeli working committees, agreed on by President 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Peres, did not come up with a mechanism to start the redeployment of the Israeli Army in the West Bank at the date set by the agreement.

Security Official on Israeli Withdrawal From Salfit

JN1010082295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli forces of occupation are expected to withdraw from Salfit today and from Qabatiyah, Yattah, and Kharbata on 12 October. The Israeli withdrawal from these cities takes place within the framework of the occupation army's redeployment in the West Bank and its withdrawal from populated areas.

Major General Ziyad al-Atrash, official in charge of the Palestinian security liaison committee, said the Israeli decision to withdraw from Salfit, Yattah, Qabatiyah, and Kharbata is not part of the redeployment but comes within the framework of the transfer of civilian powers only.

Maj. Gen. al-Atrash added said that agreement on this issue was reached in Cairo before the signing of the agreement to expand the autonomy rule.

Joint Patrols on West Bank After Redeployment

TA1010091695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources have said that it has been agreed with Israel that following the redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], 11 joint patrols would operate on the West Bank in the areas of Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Bet Jala, Hebron, and Jericho. The sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that it was also agreed that each liaison office in the rural areas would operate three joint patrols, which would be led by IDF vehicles.

'Arafat Views Taba, Confederacy With Jordan

NC0710110095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 7 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has praised the role played by Egypt—government and people—in supporting the Palestinian people.

He saluted the victory of the glorious October War, pointing out that the Egyptian people have, since 1948, offered 84,000 martyrs and injured people in defense of Palestine.

President 'Arafat called on Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to cancel the oppressive resolutions against the Palestinians soon, on the basis of Arab fraternity. He also called on the Arab countries to retrieve unity and Arab solidarity so that the new world order is not established at the expense of the Arab nation and future generations.

'Arafat said in an exclusive interview given to Dr. Salah 'Abd- al-Latif, the MENA correspondent in the Palestinian Authority [PA] areas, that there will be an expansion of the locations and institutions of the PA in the West Bank, in accordance with what the PA Council of Ministers decides after redeployment is finalized.

President 'Arafat said in his interview: We adhere to a confederation with Jordan after the final phase negotiations and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

He noted the difficulties and suffering the Palestinian people are going through because of the siege imposed by Israel on the West Bank and Gaza Strip for 212 days out of a period of 14 months or 425 days. Daily losses are estimated at $6 million, that is, $1,272 million in total.

He said the acts of violence some people from the Palestinian side have been carrying out are not justified, particularly after the agreement has been signed. And violence by the Jewish settlers violates the Israeli stance after the agreement. He said that what the Palestinian people have accomplished is the result of a long and bitter struggle.

Asked how he feels following harrowing rounds of negotiations and global travel after signing the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Washington, 'Arafat said: The most important thing we could say is that we have started to implement the second part of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington and Cairo.

'Arafat pointed out that many people claimed that Gaza-Jericho First will be Gaza-Jericho last and no more. Now Israeli withdrawal from all the populated areas of the West Bank will start in a few days to implement the second stage of this agreement. This will immediately be followed by Palestinian legislative elections as the first elections in line with this concept on Palestinian land. In addition, the head of the PA will also be elected.

He elaborated on the significance of the legislative and executive elections.

President 'Arafat said: We continue to suffer over the implementation, whether regarding the first stage or our expectations for the second stage. This agreement should have been finalized in July 1994. We actually signed it in September 1995.

He added: Throughout this period we held Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on all leadership, political, security, and military levels, thus reflecting the comprehensive suffering we have been enduring. Then there is the handing over of a homeland the infrastructure of which has been destroyed, meaning we must start from scratch.

Had it not been for our people's high morale, we could not have continued the long and difficult march. This high morale is all that sustains us on this long and arduous road.

Asked the location for the PA headquarters in the West Bank, the Palestinian president said this will be decided upon by the council of ministers once the Israeli forces have been redeployed and have withdrawn from all the towns, villages, and camps. The elected council, the future council of ministers, and the elected presidency will be approved after the elections, he added.

Asked about the popular celebrations that will be held in West Bank towns when he visits these towns after the Israeli withdrawal, as happened when he entered the Gaza Strip, President 'Arafat said the celebrations in Gaza did not just happen; they were the fruit of a long struggle waged by the Palestinian people's various factions, organizations, and political and popular formations. He added: The Palestinian revolution is the longest revolution in modern history and the Palestinian intifadah is the longest one in modern history. The world has never witnessed anything like this intifadah, which has so far offered 2,000 martyrs, 117,000 wounded, and 138,000 detainees.

President 'Arafat said: Our losses—Lebanese and Palestinian— during the 18-month siege of Beirut were 72,000 martyrs and wounded, most of them Palestinian. This reflects our people's determination to forge ahead despite the numerous sacrifices. He said that all these sacrifices prompted the Palestine National Council [PNC] to accept former U.S. President George Bush's initiative in 1991 and participate in the Madrid Conference despite the difficult circumstances and unjust conditions.

Continuing, President 'Arafat said: We accepted all these with meticulous understanding of the international and regional changes that emerged following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the Gulf crisis, and WW II and its effects. At the same time we understand the difficult situation surrounding the region due to the absence of Arab solidarity. which our nation needs very much because we are facing a new world order, which was described by my late friend Rajiv Gandhi as a new order subject to orders.

President 'Arafat said: The following big question is addressed to all the masses of our nation: Where and how will our nation face this new world order? I urge them to restore Arab solidarity, Arab cooperation, and Arab unity so that this new world order will not be at our expense or at the expense of our future generations.

On renewing the call for setting up a confederacy between Palestine and Jordan, the Palestinian president said that this is not a call. It is, rather, the interpretation by the press. Between 1983 and 1991 the PNC made a decision concerning our readiness to establish and accept a confederacy between the states of Jordan and Palestine in accordance with the voluntary and free choice of the two fraternal peoples.

Continuing, 'Arafat added: We are still committed to this decision. But it will not happen now; it will happen after the third stage, because when we went to Madrid we knew the solution on the Palestinian track would be formulated in stages while the solution on the other tracks would be formulated in one stage. But this should be subject to the voluntary and free choice of the two fraternal peoples.

Asked about incidents the Palestinians are being subjected to abroad, President 'Arafat said: Unfortunately, we are being subjected to continuous incidents and persecution, as happened after resolutions were adopted in Libya against the Palestinians, which had repercussions in the form of resolutions in Lebanon for those carrying Lebanese travel documents.

'Arafat called on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to cancel these oppressive resolutions quickly based on a spirit of fraternity and on the many difficulties the Palestinians are facing on every level.

On Egypt's stance on Palestine, President 'Arafat praised the role played by Egypt—Government, president, and people—in helping the Palestinian brothers.

He said: We should not forget that the Declaration of Principles was signed in Cairo as well as in Washington and that the recent discussions took place on Egyptian territory in Taba and in Alexandria. The intervention and help from President Husni Mubarak and his aides is much appreciated in achieving what we have achieved so far. Our people will never forget their committed, principled, and fraternal stances.

On the position of the donor countries toward the PA, President 'Arafat said: Unfortunately, there are many promises but few have been honored. I remember very well what one of the officials of these countries said during a meeting of donor countries in Brussels. He said: I cannot look President Yasir 'Arafat in the eye without feeling embarrassed, because we pledged $720 million, which was decreased to $400 million and then to $240 million. The meeting has now approved $125 million.

'Arafat added: Proceeding from this, we have called on all the Palestinian financiers, big and small. The small financiers responded from the start. Then the big financiers began to respond. But I want to ask one question: Can an investor come to an area that is closed off for 212 days out of a total of 14 months? Israel should bear the responsibility for this.

On the PA's achievements so far, 'Arafat said: We have strengthened the bases of our various institutions, which have shown great competence despite the difficult and bitter circumstances they have endured.

Concluding his interview, 'Arafat said he will again tour Arab and international countries during October.

Clashes Reported During Prisoner's Funeral

NC0910213095 Paris AFP in English 2028 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ramallah, West Bank, Oct 9 (AFP) - Israeli troops and young Palestinians clashed Monday during the funeral here for a Palestinian prisoner who died in an Israeli military detention center.

Five young protestors were arrested by police after stones were thrown. The army responded by launching tear-gas grenades. No one appeared injured, an AFP correspondent at the scene said.

About 2,000 people attended the funeral for Muhammad 'Abd-al- Raziq Abu-Shaqrah, 23, from Ramallah. He was found dead Saturday by fellow-detainees at the Ketziot prison in Israel's Negev desert, a military source said. The detainees alerted the authorities, and the body showed signs of injury.

Abu-Shaqrah's family has accused Israel of being responsible for his death, saying he was beaten to death by "collaborators."

Israeli military officials say they have opened a investigation and an autopsy has been performed.

Meanwhile, two Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip said Monday they were savagely beaten and robbed by Israel border guards, a police source said.

The Palestinians said guards forced them to undress, beat them and stole their paychecks.

The two men, who worked in the Arab Israeli village of Et Tira, east of Tel Aviv, showed signs of having been beaten. They have filed charges against the border police.

Police said the men did not have the right to be on Israeli territory because of Israel's temporary closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to ward off potential attacks from militants opposed to the PLO autonomy accord.

Other Palestinians coming from the West Bank also filed complaints about being beaten by border guards, sources said.

The closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip prevents about 30,000 Palestinians from reaching their jobs in Israel.

Riots Continue Following Prisoner's Death

TA1010084095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Jerusalem Post Staff and News Agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riots continued for the second consecutive day in Ramallah yesterday following the funeral of Muhammad Abu-Shaqra, 21, who was found dead at the Qetzi'ot prison camp on Saturday night.

One Palestinian was injured after IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the demonstrators, eyewitnesses reported. Five demonstrators were arrested.

Abu-Shaqra, a Ramallah resident, was serving a five-month sentence at Qetzi'ot for stone throwing and membership in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Thousands of Arabs marched to the Ramallah cemetery to bury Abu- Shaqra, his coffin draped in a Palestinian flag, shouting, "There is no God but one God."

An IDF spokesman said on Sunday that there were signs that Abu- Shaqra had been beaten to death and that the death was under investigation.

Hamas claimed Abu-Shaqra was killed by prisoners collaborating with Israeli authorities.

"You were a prisoner and now you rise to become a martyr," the crowd chanted during yesterday's funeral procession.

Hamas Calls For 'Escalating Resistance'

JN0910175195 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 9 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has condemned the Taba agreement between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the [Israeli] enemy and considered the agreement a concession to Zionist-American pressure by a fragile authority which is accustomed to submission.

Hamas said: This agreement, with all its details, came in the interest of the usurper enemy, which imposed all its conditions. Meanwhile, the Palestinian negotiator has generously made concession after concession.

Hamas also condemned Libya's collective expulsion of Palestinians, and expressed its denunciation of and regret at this unjustifiable step, which undermines Islamic and pan-Arab ties and increases the suffering of the Palestinian people. It called on the Libyan officials to immediately halt these acts, support the afflicted Palestinian people, and ease their suffering. Hamas also denounced some Arab countries' closure of their territory to the displaced Palestinians, despite the fact that these Palestinians bear travel documents issued by these countries themselves.

Hamas warned against the dangers of the continuous, accelerated efforts aimed at normalizing relations with the Zionist enemy through international conferences, opening liaison and representation offices for the Zionist entity, and holding meetings with Zionist officials.

Hamas called on international, humanitarian, and judicial organizations to condemn the unprecedented, inhumane Zionist acts represented by punishing the relatives of suspects, as it did to the parents of heroic mujahid Yahya 'Ayyash. It also called for exerting pressure on the government of the Zionist entity to stop torturing and killing Palestinians under interrogation and in jails, and to immediately release mujahid Yahya 'Ayyash's mother, who was arrested without any charges despite her deteriorating health condition.

Hamas appealed to the masses of the Arab and Islamic nation to reject the agreements of humiliation and capitulation, which are signed by a capitulatory minority that represents only itself and which seeks only its trivial interests.

Hamas also called on the Clinton administration to release Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, warning that this administration's continued compliance with Zionist demands will have evil consequences.

Hamas stressed that it will escalate its resistance to occupation, particularly on the anniversary of the heroic martyrdom- seeking operations which took place in October 1994.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, denounced the PA's continued detention of mujahidin and opponents, as well as its brutal interrogation methods. Hamas called on the PA to immediately release the detainees, particularly Sayyid Abu-Musamih, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar [released on 8 October], Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, Shaykh Salamah al-Safadi, and others. It also called on the PA to stop chasing the mujahidin.

Hamas called for the following activities:

—On 8 October, escalating resistance to occupation forces and settlers on the anniversary of al-Aqsa massacre;
—On 9 October, a general strike will be staged on the passage of 95 months since the beginning of the intifadah;
—On 18 October, the Palestinians will express their solidarity with the prisoners and detainees.

Hamas Delegation, Leaders Resume Talks in Sudan

JN0710205695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation from Hamas Movement resumed talks in Sudan today with Hamas leaders abroad on reaching an agreement with the National Authority.

Ghawshah: Khartoum Meeting Internal Matter

JN0810153395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Oct 95 p 22

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the [Islamic] Resistance movement, Hamas, has denied that the Khartoum meeting represents a dialogue between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA]. He described this meeting as an internal dialogue that concerns only Hamas since it is being held among Hamas leaders abroad and some of its cadres from within the occupied territories — a dialogue that may lead to the latter's commitment to or departure from the movement's positions.

In a telephone converstion with AL-DUSTUR, Ghawshah refused to identify the Hamas leaders engaged in a dialogue with whom he described as Hamas cadres that represent neither Hamas within the occupied territories, nor the PA. He said: They described themselves as mediators bringing the idea of launching a dialogue with Hamas on ways of reaching an understanding with the

PA. The movement agreed to hear them and to relay its viewpoint to them.

Answering a question on how these figures are mediating between the movement, of which they are members, and with the PA, he said: The issue may seem complicated. But they chose to be in this situation. Had they been committed 100 percent to Hamas, their positions would have been identical to those of the movement. They have their own view about the PA. They relayed this view to the PA and Hamas in the occupied territories. They proposed briefing Hamas members abroad on this viewpoint if the parties did not object.

Ghawshah described the delegation to Khartoum as being locked between two extremes. He explained: They are Hamas cadres and at the same time, they have their own perspective about reaching an understanding with the PA. Following the dialogue, these figures could be either convinced of the movement's vision and mechanism of dealing with the PA. If not, they may secede from Hamas and form a new school advocating its own ideas .

He said that Hamas is a one fabric and has one ideological and political structure. He noted: All the movements' members, whether inside or outside the occupied territories, are hawks when it comes to the Zionist occupation, and all are moderates and flexible when it comes to inter-Palestinian conflict.

Asked why Hamas cadres adopting more flexible positions are always those based inside the occupied territories, he mentioned two points: First, all the brother who adopted clear positions, like Sayid Abu-Musamih, Mahmud al-Zahhar, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, Ahmad Bahr, and Salamah al-Safadi, were arrested. Besides, 'Arafat and Israel arrested all the strong figures who can express themselves.

Second, there is much influence, polarization, and temptation inside the occupied territories. The PA uses many methods in this regard. Some people gave up to these pressures. No one is invincible except God.

Ghawshah ruled out a serious split in Hamas. He described the elements that headed for Khartoum as marginal, noting that in a previous time, Khadir Muhammad and Mahmud Abu-Dan seceded from Hamas and formed two Islamic parties loyal to the PA. He said that Abu-Dan served as an officer in the Palestinian intelligence agency. Ghawshah mentioned that 'Imad al-Faluji no longer represents Hamas inside the occupied territories. However, he added, no decision was issued dismissing him from the movement.

Finally, we asked Ghawshah why Hamas did not change its position on Palestinian elections at a time when it used to express its readiness to take part in these elections if they were legislative. He said these elections are not legislative, despite the fact that Taba agreement said they were so. He noted that these elections were called legislative in order to promote them, adding that the point of reference for the elected council will be the Zionist occupation. He further stated: The legislative elections we mean are those which are free, fair, and unconditional — elections that will come up with a Palestinian leadership. Only in this case will we be ready to take part in elections.

Qaddumi Said Working With Syrians Against Accords

JN0810183795 Amman AL-MASHRIQ in Arabic 9-15 Oct 95 p 4

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Informed Palestinian sources in Damascus have revealed that behind-the-scenes contacts and consultations are currently under way between the Syrian leadership and PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi to coordinate efforts to contain the results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, particularly in the aftermath of the signing of the Taba accord.

The sources expected Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] to make a brief visit to Damascus, most likely next week, to complete the talks he started with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The sources indicated that Qaddumi, who is opposed to the Oslo accord and its repercussions, has expressed fears to his Syrian interlocutors and to Palestinian officials opposed to the peace process that the Palestinian elections provided for in the Oslo-Taba accords could signal the demise of the PLO and the consecration of the self-rule authority as the uncontested leadership of the Palestinian people. Specifically, he is afraid that the Palestine National Council [PNC] might be practically liquidated in case it fails to convene to amend the National Charter, or in case it convenes to amend the charter if the required quorum is obtained.

The sources went on to say that Qaddumi reviewed with Syrian officials the issue of reviving and activating the PLO institutions outside the Palestinian territories. Nonetheless, he said that there are two basic impediments blocking this endeavor.

The first lies in political disputes among opposition factions. Some of the opposition factions believe that Qaddumi's moves are aimed at containing the opposition.

Their fears are fed by the fact that Abu-al-Lutf is not opposed to the peace process per se. Moreover, he has not taken firm stands to frustrate this process, either within Fatah or the PLO, where he is second in command.

The second impediment lies in the financial crisis experienced by the opposition factions, whether or not they are affiliated with Fatah or the PLO. Qaddumi has been quoted as saying that it is impossible to obtain financial support from President Yasir 'Arafat or any well-known Arab side to revive the PLO or activate its role. For the world community is channeling its aid to the Palestinian Authority. 'Arafat is thought of as the culprit who seeks to weaken the PLO and promote the status of the Palestinian Authority.

The sources stressed that during his talks with Syrian officials, Qaddumi raised the issue of the Fatah and PLO property sequestered in Syria, demanding that they be released. He demanded that the writ of sequestration obtained on the PLO's behalf by Zafir al- Khadra, the PLO attorney in Syria, be annulled. The sequestration was designed to prevent Fatah and PLO dissidents from using this property.

The value of the immovable property in question, which includes 250 apartments as well as land tracts and farmlands, has been put at approximately $150 million at current prices.

Syrian officials have not replied to the request made by Qaddumi. Nonetheless, our sources have stated that the Syrian leadership is seriously considering a favorable response to this request. The Syrian leadership will decide to unfreeze this property gradually on the condition that several political and financial conditions are met. These conditions were unofficially relayed to Qaddumi through a third Palestinian party.

First, the Syrian leadership wants to be assured that Qaddumi is serious in his attempts to lead the opposition. He must demonstrate such seriousness by calling for meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and even the PNC to take the required positions in response to the "conciliatory course pursued by the limited self- rule authority's clique."

Second, the PLO must settle what is perceived as Palestinian debts owed to Syria. Our sources said that Palestinian quarters, even within pro-Syria factions, have been shocked to learn that the Syrian Army General Staff has prepared a list of the expenditures it spent on the Palestine Liberation Army units affiliated with it since 1976. The Syrian leadership views these expenditures as debts and arrears to be paid by the PLO. The sources think that Damascus raised this issue to reach a financial settlement that would allow it to obtain the lion's share of the PLO's property once it is released. The amount in question is worth a try, Damascus believes.

Our sources expect that the next round of talks between Qaddumi and Syrian officials in Damascus will address these issues. The sources maintained that much will depend on the pace of progress in the imminent Syrian-Israeli talks.

In a related development, Palestinian sources close to Abu-al- Lutf said that he is worried about the growing trend to obscure the diaspora Palestinians, and that the man is obsessed with the idea of consecrating the PLO as the uncontested leadership of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in the diaspora as well until all aspects of the Palestine question are resolved. That is why he is making persistent efforts to streamline the opposition within Fatah and the PLO, and to use the Syrian position toward that end, particularly after al-Qadhdhafi closed the doors to any relationship between the Palestinians and Libya with his arbitrary decision to deport 30,000 Palestinians.

The sources believe that the next phase will see a toughened stance by Qaddumi, particularly with the approach of the date for the amendment of the National Charter, as provided for in the Taba accord.

Gaza Leaflet Indicates 'Possible Split' in Hamas

TA0810111895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 08 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] delegation has gone to Sudan to meet with foreign Hamas supporters there in an apparent bid to seek consensus for rapprochement with the Palestinian Authority. [passage omitted]

However, a leaflet issued in the name of Hamas in Gaza yesterday said the delegation did not represent Hamas, and though they were seeking ways to improve relations with the PA this "did not commit Hamas to ending military actions against Israel."

The leaflet was the first indication of a possible split between a "militant" and a "pragmatic" wing of Hamas. [passage omitted]

The leaflet emphasized that "Hamas did not commit itself to stopping military actions against Israel. But it said "Hamas supports efforts to bring unity to the Palestinian people. It hopes these efforts will succeed."

Hamas Member on PA-Hamas Mediation, Taba

JN0710093395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0520 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Shaykh Jamal Salim, member of the Islamic Resistance Movement, by Fathi al-Barqawi; place not given; from the "New Day" feature — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Barqawi] Shaykh Jamal Salim, good morning.

[Salim] Good morning.

[Al-Barqawi] Yesterday, we heard that three brothers departed for Sudan to mediate between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. How true is this report?

[Salim] I have heard this report exactly as you did; namely, from the media. I heard that four individuals from Gaza left to hold a dialogue on differences between the PA and Hamas.

[Al-Barqawi] Who are these four brothers?

[Salim] I have ascertained two names: Isma'il Haniyyah and Khalid al-Hindi. I could not ascertain the names of the other two.

[Al-Barqawi] Judging by your experience and knowledge, can this mediation succeed?

[Salim] I think if good will is present—and I believe it is there among all of our people, God willing—an understanding or agreement will be reached. I believe the background for such an agreement exists, and there is vast common ground. Inter-Palestinian reconciliation must be given top priority. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] The Taba agreement was signed nine days ago, and has been approved by the PA and the Israeli Government. It seems to me that there is a popular consensus that this is the best thing that can be realized at present. What is your opinion?

[Salim] In my opinion, the Taba agreement, which is the Oslo-B agreement; and before that, the Oslo-A agreement, contain many loopholes. It is clear that there is a powerful party, Israel, and a weak party, the Palestinians. The powerful side dictates conditions to the weak side, which will have to accept them.

[Al-Barqawi] Shaykh Jamal Salim, let us suppose that you have been evicted from your home. There is a powerful party and you are the weak party. You were thrown in the streets: you, your wife and your children. Then you were given the option of remaining in a tent in your own backyard. Which is better, the street or the tent in your backyard?

[Salim] My brother, we do not want any settler in the West Bank or on Palestinian land. We do not want to see any Israeli soldier anywhere in the occupied territory. This is our demand. This means ....

[Al-Barqawi, interrupting] You have evaded my clear question. Which of the two options would you choose?

[Salim] The issue is not that simple, and an answer cannot be given in this way. I believe that a man can offer some short-term concessions in order not to lose substantial long-term rewards. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denies Hamas Official Will Join PA

MM0610143595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Mufid 'Awwad: "Ghawshah: Hamas Will Not Participate in Palestinian Authority After Withdrawal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has denied the possibility of the movement's participation in a Palestinian government to be formed after the Israeli Army's redeployment and withdrawal from a number of cities in the West Bank and its areas. He stressed that Israel's withdrawal will not include more than 4 percent of the area of the West Bank. Meanwhile a Hamas official said that the [Palestinian] Authority [PA] has not invited anyone to participate.

Ghawshah told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the talk about the participation of an Islamic figure in the PA is not new. However, it is merely a baseless rumor. He pointed out that after the Authority entered Gaza and Jericho, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat sent a delegation, headed by Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki, to Hamas to persuade it to participate in the PA with four Hamas figures. He added: Hamas refused absolutely to participate. This has always been our position.

Ghawshah stressed that Hamas has not changed its position toward the PA, and Hamas will not participate in the self-rule elections. Its policy, as expected, will remain one of responding to the campaign launched against the Islamic movement following the threats made against it by Rabin in Washington.

He pointed out that Hamas does not expect any redeployment by the Zionist army as rumored. He said: They are talking about less than 4 percent of the area of the West Bank. The area intended for redeployment is the cities, whose area does not exceed 200 square km, when the area of the West Bank is 5,600 square km. The Hamas spokesman said that they are talking about redeployment, when the Palestinian negotiators did not agree with Israel in Taba on a timetable for redeployment. Ghawshah described that as a big scandal which was revealed after the signing in Washington.

He added that the Palestinian side claims that redeployment will begin in 10 days, while Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements confirm that they [the Israelis] will begin [to implement redeployment] at the end of the year after the methods of circumvention have been applied.

Ghawshah believes that the Palestinian negotiator accepted fully all that was dictated to him by the Israeli side in the Taba talks.

Meanwhile, Fatah Central Committee member Sakhr Habash, who is participating in a conference held by the movement in Gaza, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the challenges facing the Authority and the Palestinian people are to achieve the Israeli withdrawal and hold the elections. And the Authority is not in the process of offering ministerial posts to anyone. Because the Palestinian people — through the election of a legislative council — will settle the matter through the 82 members of the council to be elected.

Asked about the possible participation of a Hamas figure in a Palestinian government, he said that that depends on Hamas' program and the outcome of the elections.

Hamas Spokesman on Abu-Marzuq, Taba Accord

JN0710180995 Amman AL-URDUN in Arabic
9 Oct 95 p 6

[Interview with Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by Chief Editor Musa al-Kilani; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Kilani] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was quick to reject the Taba agreement — on what basis?

[Ghawshah] The Taba agreement translates the Declaration of Principles regarding the West Bank. The serious thing is that this agreement largely depicts the final features of the final status of the West Bank. When the two-year final-status negotiations are held in 1996, the changes that are expected to take place will be superficial and minor. In other words, when the Palestinian Authority signed the Taba agreement, it knew deep down that the final status of the West Bank will not be much different from the features drawn in Oslo.

This is why I was not surprised to hear the results of a poll recently conducted in the occupied territories by a PLO-affiliated institution. Some 60 percent of those polled think that the Taba agreement does not provide permanent peace. They think the agreement provides temporary peace, which is exactly what we think. The agreement has many loopholes. Although the issue of Jerusalem is important, it has been excluded. There was no mention of Jerusalem, except in reference to the elections. It is clear from the mechanism of elections accepted by the Palestinian Authority that the Palestinian Authority abandoned the political aspect of eastern Jerusalem when it pledged that the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem which are affiliated with it are personal institutions and have no ties with it. Regarding Hebron, Rabin and Peres have managed to maintain the Zionist infiltration of it and of the areas around it. There are 400 settlers in Hebron, and the Zionist Government has assigned to an entire army the task of their protection. Also, the Ibrahimi Mosque, which was partly turned into a synagogue, is still under Zionist control.

Water is another problematic issue. Information leaked about the agreement shows that 28 million cubic meters out of 600 million cubic meters in the Arab territories are allocated for the Arabs. The Palestinians need 120 million cubic meters annually. Thus, more than half of the water will be under Zionist control. In addition, the issue of electricity has not been solved. You also have the land, since 70 percent of the West Bank is still under occupation. The question of refugees and misplaced people is not part of the agreement. We also do not know the method used in drawing the maps, which we have not yet seen. However, we can imagine what these maps look like, based on information that says the West Bank is divided into three zones. This division keeps most of the territory under occupation. This also applies to security control.

We heard on the news that when 'Arafat saw the maps and the yellow area that is his share, he realized how small the area is and saw that it was divided into isolated zones. Therefore, he returned to his room and the negotiations were halted. Information reveals that Zionist planners presented the maps in the last stage, having secured 'Arafat's approval in principle. So 'Arafat had no choice but to give in to President Husni Mubarak and Dennis Ross. It is said that the latter threatened 'Arafat, saying that if he did not agree, the U.S. Congress would stop the aid it was about to offer to the Palestinian Authority in September, telling him that this was not a good time for anger and retreat.

Therefore, we in Hamas say that when these facts are revealed, the Palestinian people and the Arab nation will receive a big shock.

[Al-Kilani] Did Hamas reject the agreement before its details were announced?

[Ghawshah] Hamas does not of course accept or reject without any information. It does so in a scientific manner.

[Al-Kilani] However, you are talking about press information based on which Hamas adopted its rejectionist stand.

[Ghawshah] No, there is information from both the Jewish and Palestinian sides. The Jews are the ones who decided on the area and the situation. We noticed how satisfied Rabin was. Peres considered it an agreement.

[Al-Kilani] Will Hamas express its rejection of the agreement in a way other than verbal denunciation?

[Ghawshah] Hamas knows very well that the world respects nothing other than force. The Jews themselves only bow to force. What you said earlier about 'Arafat being forced to sign is basically a result of an imbalance of force between the strong Jews and the powerless Palestinian Authority. Hamas is trying to be a local force. It can score points under the various forces in the region, ahead of which is the Jewish enemy. It can deal blows to the weak points of this Jewish dinosaur until it loses its balance.

[Al-Kilani] Are you able to do so now?

[Ghawshah] Actually, the movement is being attacked from inside and outside the territories. There is a Zionist-U.S. decision to exhaust this movement until it is liquidated.

[Al-Kilani] Do you think they will be able to succeed in doing that?

[Ghawshah] Proceeding from the belief that as long as there is Islam, a recited Koran, and young people who believe in Islam and the Koran, and as long as the people and homeland support them, then the Zionist enemies will not be able to destroy this movement. The movement will offer various examples of jihad and martyrdom. For your information, there have been 3,500 Hamas prisoners, more than 800 martyrs, and thousands of wounded since the start of the intifadah. We are facing the biggest power in the region with our limited capabilities. We are sure that it is only a matter of time. Will the movement be able to remain steadfast until the Arab Islamic people can provide it with power and until some Islamic development projects succeed and join and support it? Or will the movement be destroyed before any Arab or Islamic nation rises in the region? Hence, this is the circle of conflict explained by a feverish attempt and campaign against the Islamic Hamas Movement in Palestine and expressed by the Zionist leaders, especially Rabin.

[Al-Kilani] Is this the Hawks' stand too? I ask this because it is said that Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah represents them. There are also the doves, such as 'Imad al-Faluji, who established ties with the Palestinian Authority and agreed to form a party under 'Arafat's umbrella.

[Ghawshah] Hamas has one ideological structure and political vision. It is hard to say that there are hawks and doves. All Hamas leaders come from one fabric. Sometimes, the movement is asked to show some flexibility because the principle of war is not always to attack, but to attack and retreat. We cannot say that Khalid Bin-al-Walid [an Islamic military commander] was brave when he fought al-Yarmuk battle and that he was not brave when he withdrew his army and kept it in Mu'tah.

In its stands, Hamas always takes into consideration the movement's interests and the continuity of its programs which consist of confronting the occupation. No two persons in the movement differ on this. That's why all the Hamas cadres are hawks when the issue deals with resisting occupation. They are wise men when the issue deals with preventing intra-Palestinian fighting.

As for brother 'Imad al-Faluji, the truth is that, at the present time, he does not represent the movement and is not one of its decision makers. The Palestinian Authority will be mistaken if it believes he has any authority. The Palestinian Authority sometimes believes that if it can reach someone within the movement it can thus control the decisions of the movement. 'Arafat wants this because he wants to offer this as a present to Rabin. 'Arafat failed in doing so in the past. A fierce struggle took place between Hamas and Palestinian Authority officials over the past months as the latter tried to infiltrate the movement on the security, political, and organizational level.

As an example of the security infiltration, we have Amin al-Hindi and Muhammad Dahlan who do their best to make contact with some of hunted men of the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions.

Nasr Yusuf and al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim are responsible for the political infiltration. On the organizational level, the Palestinian Authority depends on the Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip such as Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq and Khalid al-Hindi. The visit the two paid to Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in prison seeks to undermine Hamas on the organizational level. I would like to mention here that the results of this visit were not as was reported by the media. Hisham 'Abd- al-Raziq told the JERUSALEM POST that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin refused to give any sign to stop the Palestinian people's resistance so long as there is an occupation. In light of the

Palestinian Authority's fierce campaign, which Rabin and the Zionist government welcome, we would like to say with great confidence that the Movement, thanks be to God, has overcome all problems and has regained its vitality and strength. The jihad operations carried out by the 'Izz al-Din al- Qassam Battalions which, of course, are carried out independently from the political activities of Hamas have increased and will increase in the future.

[Al-Kilani] Do you expect operations by the 'Izz al-Din al- Qassam Battalions to increase as some kind of reply to the Taba agreement?

[Ghawshah] The operations by the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions are not directed against agreements. The Hamas Movement did not initiate its struggle to topple agreements like the Oslo agreement or any other.

It is well known that Hamas began its jihad with the launching of the intifadah with modest means which were developed later. 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions will continue their operations as long as there is occupation. We do not plan operations to topple a political agreement. It may happen, sometimes, that operations are carried out at the beginning of or at the end of a peace operation. That's why some analysts reach the conclusion that Hamas wants to sabotage the peace process. Hamas only carries out its Islamic and national duty of confronting the occupation.

When will operations end? When the occupation is terminated. However, facts show that the occupation intensifies and we need more operations. Therefore, it is natural that operations will escalate in the wake of the Taba agreements, particularly when the inconsistencies of this agreement surface during implementation. Palestinians who have pinned their hopes on such agreements will find that the agreement is a mirage that will bring them nothing, whether in terms of sovereignty, freedom, or a dignified life. They will then rejoin the struggle against the Zionist occupation.

[Al-Kilani] It has been said that a new strategy was set to activate action in Hamas which is based on the strategy of Musa Abu-Marzuq, and that that strategy is somewhat flexible and conciliatory?

[Ghawshah] I wish to make it clear that Musa Abu-Marzuq has been, and is still the head of Hamas Political Bureau and that the movement has not elected any new leadership. The leadership may in the future take certain internal organizational measures, but the course of the movement is not drawn by a single member of the Political Bureau. Rather, it is based on a program set by the revolutionary institutions. The movement continues to follow the same program, which cannot be amended or changed unless the institutions decide to do so. Therefore, the reports that suggest that the so-called political party will compel the Hamas Movement to pursue political action are untrue. The political party will not be an alternative to the Hamas Movement and we will not participate in the self-rule elections.

[Al-Kilani] Hamas used to demand 40 percent of the seats of the Palestine National Council. Since it is not going to participate in the self-rule elections, how would we know its true weight?

[Ghawshah] Before I answer, I have one question to ask: Will the Palestine National Council endure? 'Arafat has not yet revealed the fate of the Council. As for the elections which will be held in the West Bank and Gaza, we ask where do the 4 million Palestinians who live abroad fit? These elections are connected to the Oslo Agreement and the purpose of these elections is to implement the Oslo Agreement. That elected council will be governed by the Oslo, as well as any subsequent agreements. Our position is in harmony with our convictions and it opposes the mechanisms that will implement the Oslo and Taba agreements.

To know the weight of Hamas, we have always called for free elections both inside and outside the occupied territories. We are still convinced that without holding elections for the 7 million Palestinians, the issue of representation will not be settled. We may now demand more than 40 percent. One recent example on the weight of Hamas can be seen in al-Najah University. Hamas was able to form the university council in alliance with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

[Al-Kilani] What will be the role of the political party which Hamas intends to establish, taking into consideration that it will not participate in the elections for the self-rule authority?

[Ghawshah] The idea of the political party was contemplated by the movement before the Palestinian authority entered Gaza and Jericho. The movement was preparing itself to deal with the stage. This does not mean abandoning principles, but some sort of a realistic approach. The movement noticed that the intifadah was subsiding and there were many members, whom the Hamas Movement was keen to organize and to fight with in a political battle against the settlement. The party may also provide a canopy to several members and leaders of the movement, who may come under pressure from the authority. It may also contribute to the several activities that are in harmony with the other activities of the Hamas Movement, such as social, cultural, and other activities.

The party will not recognize the Zionist entity and the settlement plans. However, it will pursue peaceful and democratic methods.

[Al-Kilani] Israel failed to arrest Engineer Yahya 'Ayyash, and it seems that the authority wants to arrest him. What is your opinion on this?

[Ghawshah] The Zionists are torturing his sick mother, his brother is being tortured in prison, and his father is being threatened. All these practices are part of the psychological pressures employed on him. Perhaps they hope that these psychological pressures will lead to a belief by struggler 'Ayyash to surrender himself to rescue his mother and family. The Zionist leaders concentrate on the psychological side because they know that he is a good son.

Through your newspaper, we call on struggler Yahya 'Ayyash to be patient and not to give the Zionists this chance because he still has a great role in confronting these occupiers. Our hearts are with 'Ayyash and his family, and almighty God is able to provide relief. In fact, 'Ayyash has become a legend for the Palestinian people, not only through his creativity but through his patience in face of difficult circumstances and because the most skillful security organs in the world cannot arrest him. If the authority arrest 'Ayyash, God forbid, and if it hands him to the Zionists, then I will not say what is my feeling or what is the feeling of the whole Palestinian people, but it will be a grave incident.

We emphasize that if the Palestinian Authority arrest him, God forbid, then we will say to the authority: beware of miscalculations. We do not want to go further and say that part of Israel's Jews came from Libya [sentence as published].

[Al-Kilani] How will Hamas deal with the new changes in the Palestinian arena? Will there be a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority?

[Ghawshah] Hamas has been having a clear political vision since the entry of the authority. The struggle will be through political and peaceful means without engaging in any confrontation. When the Palestinian police entered, Hamas establishments and cadres opened their hearts to receive these brothers. According to the movement's program, it is impermissible to have an armed confrontation with Oslo program. Let the people judge for or against the Oslo program. Now, after two years it became clear that the people in the occupied territories are passing through a stage of frustration and rejection of Oslo results. The people feel that Oslo did not offer anything for them. The conflicts remained and the financial corruption is spread among the authority's key figures there. What happened since the massacre of 1994 was the responsibility of the authority as brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department] admitted, because it confronted the Hamas program, so martyrs fell. There were several cases of arrests and torture, and there are 100 detainees from Hamas in the Palestinian Authority's prisons such as Mahmud al-Zahhar, Shaykh al-Bahr al-Shami, and others. It is known that they are being tortured and that they are facing insults such as the shaving of their beards. Such repressive practices have not stopped.

We are prepared for dialogue with the Palestinian Authority, but there will be no dialogue before releasing all our detainees from Israeli and Palestinian prisons. There was an attempt to hold dialogue with the Palestinian Authority in Khartoum last June, and we do not mind another try, but we believe that it is in the interest of all to maintain national unity because the enemy is the only beneficiary from division and dispute. We repeat our readiness to have dialogue with the authority but not under the continuous campaign against Hamas. We say: Let's meet on one table and discuss the means for preventing confrontation.

[Al-Kilani] Some people are trying to show that there are differences between Hamas members inside and outside the territories. How accurate is this? Who is asking you for flexibility as you said earlier?

[Ghawshah] There are no differences between Hamas members, and statements that those inside are realistic and those outside are hardliners is untrue. There are attempts to isolate Gaza from the West Bank and from the outside to influence Hamas. Praise be to God, all these obstacles have been overcome.

I can confidently say that the Hamas Movement is one movement in all its political positions. As for flexibility, the calls for flexibility sometimes come from the parties of the settlement, which I dub capitulative parties.

Hamas: Abu-Marzuq Extradition 'Not Ruled Out'

NC0710191995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah: Tel Aviv has sent an official request to Washington for the extradition of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq. How do you view this Israeli request and why has it reopened this file again?

[Ghawshah] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This renewed request is due to the fact that the

U.S. Administration has given the Zionist occupation authorities 60 days to submit detailed documents on the case of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq. This period will expire on 10 October. The Zionists submitted these documents, which are said to be more than 1,000-pages long, before the expiration date. This procedure and these facilities by the U.S. Administration suggest that this Administration is focusing on handing Dr. Abu-Marzuq to the Zionist occupation authorities, something which we have strongly warned against. We also would like to explain that these alleged documents are nothing but fabricated confessions obtained from the detainees inside Zionist jails by coercion and torture as well as intelligence reports regarding the alleged activities [of Abu-Marzuq].

[Al-'Idan] Do you believe that Washington would do such a thing?

[Ghawshah] Could you repeat the question again please?

[Al-'Idan] Is it likely Washington will hand over Dr. Abu- Marzuq to the Zionist entity?

[Ghawshah] This possibility is not ruled out, but we hope that the U.S. Administration will think carefully and not make the grave mistake of handing over Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq to those who represent the highest degree of terrorism; namely, the Zionist state, which tortures the Palestinian people everyday.

[Al-'Idan] The Zionist Administration has announced that Israel permitted five Hamas cadres to travel to Sudan to engage in a (?dialogue) with the leadership there. What is the significance of this report and does it have to do with some members who have dissented from your movement?

[Ghawshah] The whole issue is that four brothers from among Hamas cadres—Brother Khalid al-Hindi, Isma'il Haniyah and two others—hold a certain viewpoint on how an understanding with the Palestinian Authority [PA] could be reached. They proposed to the Hamas movement at home and to the PA to hold a discussion with the movement [leaders] abroad. Neither Hamas nor the PA has objected to this. However, these people cannot be described as envoys of the PA or envoys of the Hamas movement at home. They are mediators who are carrying some ideas and who would like to engage in a debate with the movement abroad. The movement abroad has agreed to this dialogue, which will begin today.

[Al-'Idan] What do you think are the issues to be discussed at this meeting?

[Ghawshah] It is expected that these people will discuss their views on the PA and how to deal with it. These brothers are greatly worried and extremely concerned that an inter-Palestinian collision may take place at home. In our view, we believe that the talks will center on these issues.

[Al-'Idan] It is noticeable that fresh campaigns of arrests against Hamas supporters in Rafah and elsewhere are taking place. What is the significance of these campaigns?

[Ghawshah] I believe I have been asked about this matter and stated that the significance of these arrests, which took place three of four days ago, is that they constitute a gesture of goodwill by the PA to the Zionist occupation troops. They are meant to show that 'Arafat and his group continue to chase, arrest, and jail the Islamists. This coincides, as you know, with the Zionist Knesset debate of the Taba Agreement, which strengthens the position of Rabin and Peres and shows that 'Arafat is doing his job of curtailing the Islamic movement in the best way possible.

'Arafat Seeks Reconciliation With Hamas

TA0810065295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior source in the Palestinian Authority [PA] has revealed that the five Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders who left to meet with their leadership abroad had met with Yasir 'Arafat one day after the signing of the interim accord. The source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that at the meeting, 'Arafat expressed readiness for reconciliation with the Hamas movement and asked the five officials to deliver this message to their leadership abroad. The source noted that the PA is considering the release of three senior Hamas leaders that it is holding in custody, including Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, as a confidence-building measure between the two sides and as a step toward the establishment of a Hamas political party.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 8 October carries a similar report by Arab affairs correspondent Yoni Ben- Menahem which adds that "the five Hamas leaders who left for Sudan with Israel's approval carry a letter from Shaykh Ahmad Yasin to the Hamas leadership abroad in which the shaykh expresses support for a reconciliation agreement between Hamas and the PA." The report notes that "before they left for abroad, several of the Hamas leaders met with Shaykh Yasin in prison."]

PA Releases Prominent Hamas Leader

NC0810191295 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] today released Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the most prominent political leaders of Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] in Gaza. Al-Zahhar was detained in the wake of a suicide attack in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv.

Al-Zahhar's release seems to be an attempt to show the PA's good intentions toward Hamas. Four Hamas members have left for Sudan to hold consultations with Hamas leadership on a draft memorandum of understanding between it and the PA.

MBC has learned that the understanding being negotiated between Hamas and the PA stipulates Hamas' undertaking to respect laws in the self-rule areas, including the accords concluded with Israel. This means Hamas' initial readiness to halt military operations against Israeli targets.

PA Official on Prisoner Release, Hamas Mission

TA0610195795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, official in charge of the civilian affairs portfolio in the PA, by anchor Yusuf Isma'il in the studio; from "The Week in One Hour" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Isma'il] Mr. Jamil, naturally you are acquainted with or aware of the legal obstacles that confronted the president of Israel with regard to the two female prisoners whom he would not pardon. What is the situation now?

[Al-Tarifi] Dear sir, as far as we are concerned we deal with one government in Israel. We do not deal with more than one party in this country. The State of Israel is represented by its government, which negotiated for several months. We reached an agreement that is known as the interim stage agreement or the Oslo-2 agreement. This agreement was signed before the entire world and was witnessed in the White House by President Clinton, His Majesty King Husayn, the European Union, and Russia. I believe that in its nature this is a realistic agreement and translates to a great extent the Oslo-1 agreement. The release of all female Palestinian prisoners was clear in this agreement. We did not reach this result in one or two meetings. It is common knowledge that in the negotiations with the Israeli side we invested great efforts on this issue — the Palestinian female prisoners, our sisters and daughters — as well as on the issue of our brother prisoners. In this agreement there was a Palestinian insistence that this issue and this continuous hemorrhage be terminated. As for the pretext that the hands of two of our sister prisoners are soiled with blood, I want to state very frankly: Once more, we are dealing with one government. This government must find all the means to implement this agreement. On a different level, if they are talking about hands soiled with blood, I believe that many Israeli generals' hands are soiled with Palestinian blood. We are now passing through a new stage — the stage of peace. All the Israeli officials with whom we negotiated, including Mr. Shim'on Peres....

[Isma'il, interrupting] The question is: Has there been any contact between you and Israeli officials since it became clear that from a legal viewpoint the president of Israel would not grant a pardon?

[Al-Tarifi] First of all, the president promised President Mubarak in July in the presence of Mr. Shim'on Peres, brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], and Uri Savir that yes, all the Palestinian female prisoners would be released. Now, the pretext that is being raised is a flagrant violation of the agreement. As we used to tell the Israeli side: True, we are now negotiating at the table in order to reach an agreement, but what is important is that each side adhere to what is signed.

[Isma'il] I asked whether there has been any contact this afternoon between you and the Israeli side over this issue?

[Al-Tarifi] I do not want to refer to any contacts or other things, but this issue has made us extremely concerned. I can say that some contacts have been made, and that the Israeli Government has said that it is discussing the issue. We hope that this government will adhere to what it signed.

[Isma'il] According to your information, will this issue be raised at tomorrow's meeting at Erez between the foreign minister and Mr. 'Arafat?

[Al-Tarifi] Yes, because of the sensitivity of this issue in the Palestinian street and because of the sensitivity of the prisoners issue since the signing of the Oslo-1 agreement and since the signing of the Cairo accord. This is an extremely sensitive issue....

[Isma'il, interrupting] So, a legal solution should be found for this issue.

[Al-Tarifi] This is being raised on the Israeli side. [passage omitted]

[Isma'il] Mr. Jamil, a report today stated that a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] delegation from the

West Bank and the Gaza Strip left for Jordan and from there to Sudan to put forward an agreement between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas that requires Hamas not to carry out any anti-Israeli acts from the PA areas. What information do you have about this delegation, and what sort of agreement was reached between you?

[Al-Tarifi] I believe that first of all Hamas is a political Palestinian movement. We hope that the brothers in Hamas will provide a suitable climate for implementing this agreement. As I said on Palestinian television before departing for Washington for the signing ceremony, every Palestinian is interested in ending Israel's occupation of all the West Bank territories. If one were to support or oppose this agreement, he should oppose it in a democratic way. We must completely avoid any acts of violence and terror or intimidation of any kind, whether against Israelis or Palestinians in order to speed up the realization of this agreement toward the final stage and the evacuation of Israeli forces from the entire West Bank. [Isma'il] I asked our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid about the names of the delegation's members, and he said they are: Isma'il Hanniyah, Kahlid al-Hindi, 'Abdallah Muhannah, and Sa'id al-Naruti. Are these names correct?

[Al-Tarifi] Yes. These names are correct. According to my information, agreement was reached with the Israeli side, and they were permitted to leave in order to meet with Hamas leaders abroad in a bid to prepare the climate so that the opposition will be a democratic opposition, and in order to avoid any clash between the PA and Hamas. The reason is that as a Palestinian authority we are keen on implementing what we agreed upon with the Israeli side and on protecting this agreement. We are absolutely keen, and we will not allow anyone — whoever he may be — to endanger this agreement.

[Isma'il] This confirms what has often been said, which is that the Hamas leadership is, in practice, in Sudan.

[Al-Tarifi] I do not wish to say in Sudan, but I believe that some of this leadership might now be in Sudan. I expect from and hope that our brothers in Hamas and its leadership will comprehend this stage and that their opposition to this agreement will be a democratic opposition. I welcome them to the Palestinian ranks. [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Discuss Prisoners, Redeployment

Peres Favors Releasing All Females

TA0710190895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Rina Matzliah video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes that Israel should release all female prisoners, including those whose hands are stained with blood. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah spoke with him this evening, prior to his departure for the meeting with 'Arafat.

[Begin Peres recording] I cannot protest the president's decisions. The president has his powers and I should honor them, as indeed I will. I was not in favor of the release of two female prisoners; I was in favor of the release of all female prisoners. I distinguish between male and female prisoners since such a distinction is very much accepted in the Arab world. A war or a struggle is over, and after wars, many nations release male captives, and surely female captives with blood on their hands. [end recording]

In contrast, in a debate held at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday, Yitzhaq Rabin, the justice minister, and the attorney general expressed an opposing view. Minister David Liba'i said Israel has no commitment to release all the female prisoners, nor is this a violation of an agreement. We told the Palestinians that the release will be subject to law in Israel, and they know this, Liba'i said. Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir made a more categorical statement, saying that the agreement clearly stipulates that no murderers or prisoners who caused grievous bodily harm will be freed, and this stipulation outweighs the decisions to release all female prisoners. Senior political sources in Jerusalem estimate today that despite the crisis around the release of the female prisoners, the implementation of the accord will not be delayed.

'Arafat Says Talks 'Fruitful'

JN0810142095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has described as fruitful his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held last night.

After his meeting with Peres, President 'Arafat asserted that the Palestinian female prisoners will be released in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement recently signed in Washington. He pointed out that

Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman pledged to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to release all Palestinian female prisoners.

President 'Arafat said there has been an agreement to open two safe passages between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On his part, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres expressed hope that redeployment will be completed in December, except for Hebron, where withdrawal will take place within months.

Peres added that redeployment will begin this month with withdrawal from four Palestinian villages, and that 12 Palestinian female prisoners will be released over the next three days. Files of other female prisoners will be studied in the next few days in order to make a decision on their release.

These remarks were made at a news conference held by President 'Arafat and Peres following their five-hour meeting last night.

Peres Comments on Talks

TA0810072695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yoni Ben-Menahem at the Erez checkpoint on 8 October "at the conclusion of Peres' meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat" — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] We proposed a timetable according to which the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment would begin in four villages within 10 days, mainly in the northern part of Samaria. Afterwards, we proposed a series of dates. The agreement stipulates that we must complete the redeployment [last word in English] by the end of December 1995, with the exception of Hebron. That is why we proposed a timetable with the first site of redeployment being Janin. We estimate that this will be completed in the first half of November. Major General Biran, the commander of the Central Command, will sit down tomorrow with his Palestinian counterpart and work out the exact dates and the other finer details. As far as we are concerned, the redeployment for all intents and purposes can begin as early as this week. Clearly, these four villages merely constitute a symbolic beginning with Janin already being something much bigger. From both the formal and practical aspects, we could not commence with the redeployment before the Knesset endorsed the agreement on Friday morning [6 October].

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Foreign Minister, the issue of terrorism and the closure also featured prominently in your meeting. Could you tell us what the problem is exactly? Do we have information that elements opposed to the peace process intend to carry out severe terrorist attacks inside Israel?

[Peres] I can say that we devoted a great deal of time to this. We consider it a major issue. We demanded the arrest of wanted men as well as some other measures. The Palestinians promised that they are taking a most serious view of the matter and once again pledged to exert their maximum efforts to fulfill their role.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Foreign Minister, there was talk about how the Palestinians planned to create a crisis because not all of the female Palestinian prisoners were pardoned. This, however, did not occur.

[Peres] We told the Palestinians that we support the release of the female prisoners. We explained Israel's constitutional system to them in advance. In other words, some of the prisoners can only be pardoned by the president. The government is not permitted to intervene in the president's consideration neither before nor after the act. Once the president decided to pardon 12 prisoners and leave the remaining two in prison, it became a decision that the government neither can nor should question.

[Ben-Menahem] But did Yasir 'Arafat accept or show understanding of this?

[Peres] You heard him yourself.

[Ben-Menahem] I heard that he threw the ball back to Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

[Peres] Do you seek my commentary? Just say what you heard.

[Ben-Menahem] When will the prisoners start being released?

[Peres] Tomorrow.

[Ben-Menahem] And how long will it take?

[Peres] I hope that the 12 female prisoners pardoned by the president will be freed tomorrow. As for the others, you know that the decision is up to the IDF commanders, and I do not know what they will decide. As for the male prisoners, we will start the mass releases the day after the holiday [10 October].

[Ben-Menahem] What about the newly established steering committee composed of the Taba team? How will it meet? Will there be consecutive meetings? What will be the nature of its work?

[Peres] This committee will coordinate the implementation of the agreement on a routine basis. As far as we are concerned, the four people who were part of the committee under Uri Savir will compose the follow-up committee. Mr. Savir will head the committee, which will also include Major General Dayan, Yo'el Singer, and Major General Shahor. As for the Palestinians, their team, headed by Abu- 'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], has also basically retained its original composition.

Peres: Prisoner Release May Begin 'Today'

TA0810061995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the conclusion of his meeting with Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the release of Palestinian prisoners may start as early as today. The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judaea and Samaria will begin within a week or two in four villages and be completed by the end of December in all of the areas, except for Hebron, where it will take six months.

Major Generals Ilan Biran and Gabi Ofir will meet today at the Erez checkpoint with General al-Hajj 'Isma'il and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al- Yahya, in order to consolidate a detailed timetable and decide which four villages will be vacated first.

Security sources said that on 10 October, the Civil Administration offices will be vacated in Salfit, which is situated in the Nabulus District and in the village of Yattah in the Hebron area. On Thursday [12 October] another two Civil Administration offices will be evacuated. These offices are in the Ramallah District village of Kharbata and in the Janin District village of Qabatiyah. The representatives of the Civil Administration in Salfit and Yattah will today inform the residents that in the future, they will be able to receive the Civil Administration's services in Nabulus and Hebron.

Four women who were involved in acts of murder will apparently not be included in the release of the female Palestinian prisoners. At the meeting of the ministerial committee on prisoner releases held on 6 October, Justice Minister David Liba'i asserted that President 'Ezer Weizman's decision not to pardon two prisoners would definitely influence the commander of the Central Command to decide not to free two other prisoners who were involved in acts of murder. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that this is also Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's position. Four female security prisoners therefore apparently will not be released.

Foreign Minister Peres said yesterday that with the exception of the two female prisoners President Weizman had decided not to pardon, nothing had been concluded with regard to the two other prisoners.

Commander Alik Ron, the commander of the Israel Police Samaria and Judaea District, expressed fears that the interim accord will create terrorist havens in the area. Ron said that the IDF's withdrawal from six cities as well as Hebron could create towns of refuge for terrorists. Israel will possess limited intelligence capabilities and be unable to operate as it did in the past by carrying out searches and arrests following terrorist attacks. Commander Ron said he finds it hard to accept the fact that the murderers from Wadi al-Qilt have found refuge in Jericho. Ron nevertheless voiced the hope that the PA also has an interest in controlling the area and would not permit terrorist attacks. Commander Ron was speaking to our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Some of the IDF companies composed of new recruits have already been moved to other bases. The boot camps that will be evacuated will now become the headquarters for several IDF brigades as well as other units. The bases slated to be evacuated are the Dotan Camp, Training Camp No. 3, Training Camp No. 14, Training Camp No. 13, and Horon. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the new recruits will be transferred to substitute bases in Nitzanim, Ziqim, and Training Camp No. 80. Some of these bases are already prepared for the absorption of the new recruits. Most of the recruits from the Horon camp have already been redeployed in southern Israel, and only a few companies remain there.

Israeli Ministry Critical of Decision on Prisoners

JN0710151595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Information Ministry said Israel's decision to continue the detention of four Palestinian women threatens the peace process and is a flagrant violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

In a statement, the Information Ministry said the decision, taken by Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman and the Israeli Ministerial Committee, casts doubts on Israel's intentions toward peace and brings to mind their policy of maneuvering and not abiding by set dates.

Shahal on Prisoner Release, Security Alert

TA0810174395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More than 1,000 male inmates are due to be freed on Thursday [12 October]. Police Minister Moshe Shahal says Israel will not force any prisoners to sign the anti-terrorism statement. He told Alan Ben-'Ami the prisoners had the option to remain in jail:

[Begin recording] [Shahal] We are not going to force them to leave the prison if they don't want to. It is their privilege. They have to sign an affidavit stating that they are not going to have any relation in the future with violence and terror. If they are not ready to do so they cannot be released, so they are going to stay in the prison.

[Ben-'Ami] What about the charges from the Palestinians that, in fact, Israel did very specifically agree to release all women prisoners in the interim agreement?

[Shahal] The agreement itself is correctly stating that all women prisoners are going to be released, but that was based on the conversation between our president and President Mubarak, and the Palestinians said that during the negotiations, if your president — who is the highest authority — agreed to release all the women prisoners then you cannot respond negatively to what he has accepted positively. Now the president, Mr. Weizman, is not going to sign releasing two women prisoners who have been involved in murder cases, and the commander of the army forces in the area followed the president also by not signing the release of another two women prisoners, so they have to stay. Our answer to the Palestinian delegation is that in Israel everything is being done properly and under the law, and the authority is in the hand of President Weizman.

[Ben-'Ami] Was this made quite clear to the Palestinians before the agreement was signed, that when you discussed releasing all the prisoners this was conditional on the president himself deciding that he would be able to do so?

[Shahal] As much as I know, Mr. Peres verbally stated that more than once before Chairman 'Arafat and the members of the Palestinian delegation, so they know from previous experience that everything is being done according to the law and the proper way. We don't have the authority without the consent of the president.

[Ben-'Ami] What about the possibility of this thing spreading to other prisoners? You have got more than 1,000 male prisoners — security and criminal prisoners — who are due to be released in two days time. Do you fear the possibility that they too may refuse to be released and this whole thing will get out of hand?

[Shahal] No, I don't believe so, I don't think so. It happened before when some of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters in the first phase, they didn't want to sign the affidavit, and they stayed in prison. The release of prisoners by shortening their time in prison is a privilege of the sovereign. It is not something that has been given to the prisoner and it is part of his rights. It is a sort of grant that is being given to the prisoner. If he declines to accept it then this is his problem. We are not going to force him to be set free if he doesn't want to, and according to legal opinion that I have been given this morning by our legal adviser in the office, this is exactly the legal situation.

[Ben-'Ami] A delegation from the Hamas organization is now in Sudan, discussing apparently the possibility of reaching some sort of agreement with 'Arafat and the Palestinian Authority [PA] which would stop terrorist attacks from within the territory of the PA, which now means virtually from within the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. How serious do you think this effort is? What are the possibilities for it achieving success from everybody's point of view?

[Shahal] We have to wait until we shall see the results, just to follow if they are going to have any agreement. As much as we know — and we got some reports from the PA — that their intent is to have this obligation not only from Gaza and Jericho, but from the whole of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and I would say, if they are going to have any positive conclusion in Sudan it will also depend whether all of the Hamas supporters are going to accept it and to behave accordingly. Maybe some factions will not accept this agreement, if there will be any agreement, so we have to wait and see what is going to happen.

[Ben-'Ami] Minister Shahal, we are about to begin the Jewish holiday of Sukkoth, an entire week when a lot of Israelis are going to be out enjoying nature walks and trips around the country. There is also quite a security alert and a closure on the territories because of this alert. How concerned are you at the possibilities of serious terrorist attacks this week?

[Shahal] Well, I am always concerned, I am concerned with the problem of security, I am concerned with the problem of traffic, which is more serious, I am sorry to say. In the end of this week seven persons have been killed on the weekend, and I must say that those precautions are necessary. Some of them or most of them have been taken in previous holidays. I hope that we are going to have this holiday without unusual events. [end recording]

Palestinian Official on 'Obligation' To Free Women

JN0710105795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, member of the Palestinian delegation negotiating the release of prisoners, by Fathi al-Barqawi; from the "New Day" feature; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Good morning, brother Hisham.

['Abd-al-Raziq] Good morning.

[Al-Barqawi] First of all, do you have information other than what was published in today's papers on the release of male and female prisoners ?

['Abd-al-Raziq] It is well known that the agreement on the release of prisoners and detainees is very clear. When the agreement was concluded, we did not agree on numbers of prisoners, but on classifications. It was absolutely clear that at the first stage, all Palestinian female prisoners would be released.

We believe that President Weizman and the Ministerial Committee's decision is a violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. We believe that according to the agreement, it is Israel's obligation to release all female prisoners. Placing internal and administrative obstacles to the implementation of this agreement would make this agreement lose its credibility in the eyes of the Palestinian people, rendering it non-binding. We want to see the Israeli Government do everything that must be done for the release of all Palestinian female prisoners, so that this agreement will have credibility on the ground and in the opinion of the Palestinian people. This is not just an agreement that concerns the Palestinians and the Israelis. The entire international community is witness to it.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Hisham, you have just said that the Palestinian people will look upon the agreement as one without credibility. What measures will be taken by the National Authority, which was the one negotiating with the Israelis?

[Abd-al-Raziq] All we have heard so far is whathas been reported through the media. We have contacted the Israeli side, and this evening there will be a meeting between President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The question of prisoners will be one of the issues which will be discussed. I think the president will insist on implementing the agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] Peres himself was a member of the Ministerial Committee that approved the exceptions to the release decision.

[Abd-al-Raziq] Yes, he was a member—or to be more precise, he participated in the session.

[Al-Barqawi] Yes, I stand corrected.

[Abd-al-Raziq] Now the meeting will take place today, and we will listen to the Israeli viewpoint officially rather than through the media on their decision and what they will do. We hope that the Israeli Government will find the means to end this problem by complying fully with the agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you have any documents or lists of the names of those to be released?

[Abd-al-Raziq] About a week ago, we told the Israeli side that it is important that we receive all the lists of the names of those to be released before the actual release process begins. So far, we have not received any lists.

[Al-Barqawi] It seems that we are always pinning our hopes on the last 15 minutes.

[Abd-al-Raziq] This is normal. Perhaps many of our people are talking about the number of prisoners to be released. There is something that everyone should be aware of. All those who fit the criteria agreed upon will be released in the first and second stages. Those who are not released in the first stage will be released in the second stage. We have not agreed on the number, but on the criteria. If the second phase is reached and the prisoners are all released except for one, then this would be a violation of the agreement, and it would be our right to demand his release.

[Al-Barqawi] Was the exclusion of May al-Ghusayn and In'am al- Ja'bari, for instance, part of the agreement?

[Abd-al-Raziq] This is an obvious breach of the agreement. This was not part of the agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] So I think we are to expect other violations, brother Hisham.

[Abd-al-Raziq] We hope there will not be any. If there were any, then this will create difficulties in implementing the agreement in letter and spirit.

[Al-Barqawi] We too hope there will not be any violations, even though this is unlikely because we are used to the Israeli procrastination. Thank you, brother Hisham.

[Abd-al-Raziq] You are welcome.

Abu-Rudaynah: Incarceration of Women Violates Accord

JN0710103595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation authorities have decided to release 23 female prisoners and 1,200 male detainees from the occupation prisons within this week. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir

'Arafat's adviser, said the Israeli decision not to release four Palestinian female prisoners is a breach of the agreement. He said he hoped that the Israeli side would abide by the provisions of the agreement of implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] signed in Washington on 28 September.

Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, member of the Palestinian delegation negotiating the issue of prisoners, said the agreement on implementing the second phase of the DOP clearly stipulates that all female prisoners be released from the occupation prisons. The Israeli side's nonabidance is a violation of the DOP, seriously violating the agreement on implementation of the second phase of the DOP.

Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn called on Israel to implement the agreement signed in Washington, and to immediately release all the Palestinian female prisoners. In a statement to the press, Abu- Middayn said: Many difficulties will impede the implementation of the agreement if the Israel Government does not abide by the basic principles of the agreement on implementing the second phase of the DOP.

In this regard, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israeli President Weizeman's decision not to release two Palestinian female prisoners should not affect the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

Female Prisoners Reject Israel's Exceptions

JN0710162395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian female prisoners at Tel Mond prison said they reject the Israeli decision to release some of them and to except some others.

In a telephone call to the al-Damir Institute for Caring For Prisoners, the women prisoners said this decision will be resisted by them.

The prisoners demanded the Palestinian masses and institutions and the concerned parties to support their position.

Al-Damir Institution also said that it is holding contacts with the concerned parties and some Arab members of the Israeli Knesset to secure the release of all female prisoners in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

For its part, the Palestinian Prisoner Club said Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman's decision not to approve the release of four Palestinian female prisoners is a flagrant violation of the recent Taba agreement. In a statement issued today, the Club asked the two cosponsors of the peace process to work on compelling Israel to abide by the implementation of the agreement.

The statement says: This position reflects an Israeli attempt to circumvent the agreement. It will have negative consequences on the prisoners, their families, and the peace process.

Refuse Pledge Until All Freed

TA0810103195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The female Palestinian security prisoners at Hasharon Prison are refusing to sign a pledge to refrain from engaging in terrorism until all of them are released. The jailers suggested that the 22 female prisoners sign the pledge, but they rejected the proposal and will therefore remain in custody. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky adds that the Klugman commission, which is formulating the criteria for the prisoners' release, convened today to prepare the release of approximately 1,000 security prisoners after the Sukkoth holiday.

1 Female Prisoner Signs Pledge

TA0810114795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Oct

[FBIS Translated Text] A single female Palestinian prisoner did sign a pledge to refrain from engaging in terrorism, and she will leave jail at midday. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that she is Bashara Abu-Laban, who was sentenced to a seven-year prison term for an attempt to stab a soldier. Our correspondent notes that this female prisoner was held at the Neve Tirtza jail because she had quarreled with the other female security prisoners. The 21 female security prisoners who were slated to be released from jail today are protesting the decision not to free four of their friends, refuse to sign the pledges, and will not be freed as a result. Our correspondent adds that the Klugman commission, which is formulating the criteria for the prisoners' release, also convened today to prepare the release of about 1,000 security prisoners this Tuesday [10 October].

50 Released After Signing Pledge

TA1010061995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The release of the Palestinian prisoners has begun. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that 50 prisoners convicted on criminal charges were released from Judaea and Samaria's main prison after they signed an undertaking to avoid unlawful activity. Some 1,000 Palestinians, half incarcerated for security offenses and half for criminal activities, are due to be freed today. The security prisoners must sign an undertaking not to carry out any terrorist activity. The Palestinians say there is no certainty that the security prisoners will agree to be released today.

The Palestinian Authority [PA] is threatening that the prisoners will start a hunger strike and will not sign the commitment if the female security prisoners are not released.

Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, head of the prisoners' committee, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that if Israel releases the criminal prisoners today, it will be violating the interim agreement. He said that under the accord, the criminals and their files must be handed over to the PA, which will decide what to do with them. He noted that the PA is so far refusing to receive the criminals if the female security prisoners are not released.

600 Palestinian Prisoners Set for Release

JN1010074195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation authorities are expected to release 600 Palestinian prisoners today, according to Israeli press sources.

The Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles stipulates that Israeli authorities will release all female, sick, old, and young prisoners and those who have served two-thirds of their sentence as part of the first group of prisoners to be released from the occupation jails.

PA To Get 'Alternative' Areas to Hebron Cemetery

TA0810094895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] will receive alternative areas in Hebron instead of the Ashkenazi cemetery. At his meeting with PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres raised the issue of the Ashkenazi cemetery in Hebron, which was not included in the areas under Israeli responsibility due to a mistake in the maps.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Foreign Minister Peres proposed that the Palestinians receive alternative areas in Hebron. Sources in the Israeli delegation asserted that Yasir 'Arafat had said he has no intention of annexing a Jewish cemetery to the areas under Palestinian control in Hebron. The parties agreed that the matter would be discussed by the committees on civilian affairs. As reported earlier, the PA will receive alternative areas instead of the Ashkenazi cemetery.

Fatah Urges Israel To Implement Agreement

JN0710163695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1214 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians continue to exert extensive efforts on the issue of releasing Palestinian female prisoners from Israeli occupation jails. Israeli President Ezer Weizman's decision to exclude a number of female prisoners is facing Palestinian disregard, on one hand, and rejection, on the other. Marwan al-Barghuthi, secretary of Fatah Higher Committee, expressed indignation over Israel's procrastination regarding the release of female prisoners. In statements to our radio, al-Barghuthi said:

[Begin al-Barghuthi recording] Israeli President Weizman's decision on the release of Palestinian female prisoners is unfair. The agreement has nothing to do with this decision. The PLO and the Israeli Government signed a political agreement and we have nothing to do with judicial and legal problems in Israel and how it deals with these problems. It is impermissible for the Palestinian people to wait for the Israeli president's mercy. Israel's prime minister committed himself to this decision. We have nothing to do with any judicial or legal problem in this regard. I believe that this is a blatant violation of the agreement. An agreement was made to release all Palestinian female prisoners without any exception. Moreover, Egyptian President Mubarak intervened in this issue. He spoke with the Israeli prime minister. Based on this, there is a provision in the agreement, which stipulates the release of all Palestinian female prisoners. Such a blatant violation of the agreement will put a strong burden on it. We, in Fatah, will not remain silent over this. During the next few days, we will call for a program to begin a popular move throughout the homeland in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners. Enough oppression against the Palestinian people and enough attempts to divide, and belittle this agreement and to implement it in the Israeli way.

I also believe the Palestinian Authority Cabinet will discuss this issue today and a clear and frank decision should be made in this regard. It is not logical for the Israeli Government to sign an agreement while it is not aware of the Knesset's political map. Surely, Rabin went to Washington and signed this agreement while he was certain that the Israeli Knesset would ratify it. There was a balance in the ratification votes. However, this is not the Palestinian people's and the PLO's business. Israel's government is authorized to reach agreements with the Palestinian people. It is true that the Knesset ratified the agreement with a narrow majority. However, all the provisions of the agreement were ratified. Israel's government should courageously begin to implement this agreement and should not wait for this process carried out by the Israeli President, which is the first of its kind. No other Israeli president has halted or tried to change or amend any decision made by the Israeli Government. What is very strange is that he is currently subject to influence by the extremist Israeli right wing and to Netanyahu's blackmail in this regard. [end recording]

IDF-Palestinian Officer Meeting Ends in Dispute

TA0810151895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translate$ Text] The meeting between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Major Generals Ilan Biran and Gabi Ofir and Palestinian police Generals al-Hajj Isma'il and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, held in the coordination and liaison headquarters at the Erez checkpoint, ended a short time ago.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that at the end of the meeting, which lasted some five hours, Gen. al-Hajj Isma'il said no agreement has been reached concerning the timetable for the IDF withdrawal and the entry of the Palestinian police forces. He added that there are differences of opinion between the two sides.

Gen. Biran said that progress was made in the talks. He said that some problems have surfaced, but added that ways will be found to overcome them.

'Wide Gap' Remains Over Redeployment

JN0810155295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli committee charged with drawing up a timetable for redeployment met at the Erez crossing this morning. The meeting was concluded this afternoon.

Major General Ziyad al-Atrash, official in charge of the Security Liaison Committee, said that no agreement has been reached on a timetable for redeployment. He indicated that there is a wide gap between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. He reiterated that the Palestinian side seeks the implementation of the provisions enshrined in the agreement recently signed in Washington, which stipulate that the redeployment must begin 10 days after the agreement is signed.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine, Maj. Gen. al-Atrash added that the Israeli side has not heeded the Palestinian needs with regard to the timing of the redeployment. The Israelis want the redeployment to suit their security concerns, he noted. He went on to say that the Israeli side wants to link the redeployment in the West Bank to the completion of circuit roads. He stressed that we cannot connect the redeployment to the completion of circuit roads.

However, Maj. Gen. al-Atrash asserted that the meetings will continue to narrow the gap between the two sides. It should be recalled that Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya heads the Palestinian side to the talks, whereas Ilan Biran is heading the Israeli side to the talks.

Algeria

GIA Claims Responsibility for French Blasts

LD0710234595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armed Islamic Group [GIA] has today claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks which took place recently in France.

A written statement, dated 23 September, and delivered today to the office of a foreign news agency in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, said that the armed group would continue their attacks, this time on French soil.

It is worth pointing out that the text of the statement was signed by the group's presumed leader the so-called Abu Abderrahmane Lamine.

Three Powerful Explosions Heard in Algiers

LD0810171695 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 1554 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three powerful explosions could be heard at intervals of five minutes in several districts of Algiers on Sunday afternoon [8 October]. The blasts sparked a movement of panic. It is not yet known what caused these blasts and what damage they have done.

Blida Lawyer Assassinated; Body Discovered

LD0910105195 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another lawyer has been assassinated in Algeria. Mr. Bouchagour, who worked in Blida, was abducted on Friday [6 October]. His body was found the following day.

During the past two years, about 30 judges and members of the Algerian judiciary have been killed in attacks officially attributed to Islamists.

Security Forces Eliminate 30 'Terrorists'

LD0710204795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces dismantled yesterday two explosives caches in Cheraga and Eucalyptus [suburbs of Algiers] yesterday.

A statement issued by the security services pointed out that, following information that the security forces had received from citizens, they succeeded in dismantling the first cache in an area in the Cheraga administrative district, Tipaza province, where a Baretta, ammunition, hand grenades, home made bombs, silencers, audio and video tapes, and documents harming public order were seized.

In addition, the security services' statement added that follwing information provided by citizens about a cache containing materials and tools for making explosives, these were discovered and dismantled by the security forces in Saidia, near the Eucalyptus, east of the capital, where they seized in this operation a metal box full of explosives, an oxygen cylinder, different explosive materials, and chemical materials for making explosives.

Another statement by the security forces pointed out that during different search operations they carried out between last Tuesday [3 October] and Friday, they succeeded in eliminating 30 terrorists in the provinces of Batna, Mila, Mascara, Constantine, Djelfa, Algiers, Bordj Bou Arraredj, Jijel, Tlemcen, Oum El Bouaghi, and Boumerdes.

The security forces had also recovered home made bombs, and weapons of different calibers.

Kill Another 25 'Terrorists'

LD0810225495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services said in a statement today that a large number of elements from a terrorist group belonging to Akal Mohamed Rachid, who split from the Bencheha leadership group, were killed yesterday, Saturday, in Sidi Bel Abbes.

The statement added that during a large-scale search operation which took place yesterday afternoon in Taznaga, Telagh department, in Sidi Bel Abbes, the security forces managed to identify the place of the group, which was made up of 25 terrorists, and killing them.

Those terrorists were behind numerous assassinations and acts of sabotage committed in the Sidi Bel Abbes area and Tlemcen.

The statement concluded by saying that following this operation a significant quantity of weapons and ammunition was seized.

In another statement, the security services said today that the search operation which was carried out in Mila province on Saturday allowed for the discovery of a hide-out for the terrorists.

The statement pointed out that nine hunting rifles, a home-made rifles, two home-made guns, a quantity of warfare and hunting ammunition, 15 gas canisters, 50 kg of black powder, and documents of instigative nature, and various instruments were seized inside this hideout at the foot of Mila.

Five Candidates' Eligibility for Elections Affirmed

LD0610135995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Constitutional Council continues to scrutinize candidate's applications and to ascertain the identity of candidates for the first round of the presidential elections scheduled for 16 November. The scrutiny began after the 2 October deadline for collecting the signatures of citizens in support of candidates.

Most sources affirm that five candidates met the conditions required by electoral law, including the collecting of 75,000 signatures of support in at least 25 provinces, and 1,500 signatures in specific provinces. Sources agree that these five candidates are eligible for the first round of elections. They are: Liamine Zeroual, Said Saadi, Mahfoud Nahnah, Noureddine Boukrouh, and Reda Malek.

In the coming days the Constitutional Council will officially announce the list of candidates for the first round of the presidential elections, and the electoral campaign will start on 22 October 1995 as fixed by the electoral law.

Nahnah Urges Citizens To Participate in Election

LD0810172395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, held a news conference at El Djzair Hotel in the capital this afternoon. Mr. Nahnah devoted his conference to talking about the presidential elections, and the preconditions. Within this framework, he called on the citizens to go to the ballot boxes, emphasizing the need to hold the elections in fairness with the participation of a neutral administration.

FIS Said Planning To Intensify Military Campaign

LD0810224695 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Salvation Front has just told a Moroccan newspaper that it is going to step up its actions. Georges Abou reports:

[Abou] The threat was published in a Moroccan newspaper. According to EL-ANOUAL, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] intends to intensify its military campaign. We are entering a confrontational stage, the FIS communique says. Theirs is a twofold aim: They want to prevent the forthcoming presidential elections from taking place, and to cause the government's fall. Their strategy is to hit government targets. When? In the course of the weeks preceding the first round scheduled for 16 November, that is, from now on.

If this communique is authentic, it means that the two main Algerian Islamists movements are now fighting on the same front, and that they are going to use the same methods.

This is quite in keeping with an announcement made a few weeks ago by a FIS leader abroad. Anouar Haddam said that the Fighters for Freedom [Combattants de la Liberte] will not allow these elections to take place.

Unless there is a miracle, the Algerian civil war seems poised to continue, and it may even intensify. Since Friday two people have been killed and about 20 have been wounded in attacks carried out in the regions of Algiers and Constantine. As for the Algerian security forces, they have announced that 55 Islamists have been killed over the last four days.

FIS Leaders Decline Talks 'From Behind Bars'

MM0910142095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Oct 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: "Two Attempts To Resume Dialogue With Salvation Front Fail"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, AL-HAYAH — AL-HAYAH has learned from informed sources in Algiers that two attempts have been made to reactivate the dialogue between the state's presidency and leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

The sources said that the first attempt took place in the office of the commander of the first military zone in Blida. Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj were moved to the command's offices to meet with Generals Mohamed Bitchin and Taib Deradji (advisers at the presidency).

The sources stressed that Shaykhs Madani and Belhadj refused to resume the dialogue, saying that the two generals did not represent the real authority in the country. They had pledged not to engage in any dialogue "from behind bars." Shaykh Rabah Kebir, head of the FIS Executive Committee, stressed in an interview with AL-HAYAH recently that the FIS is refusing "from now on (to negotiate) from behind bars."

The sources said that the second attempt took place in Blida military prison, where the two shaykhs are currently held. The sources pointed out that Madani and Belhadj refused to shake hands with their visitors, saying that this was a "bid" to play for time and to sow suspicion and disunity in Islamist ranks. The two leaders insisted on their demand that the dialogue be "with the real authority in the country," which the FIS believes includes Generals Mohamed Lamari (chief of staff); Toufik Medienne (chief of military intelligence); Abassi Gozzil (commander of the national gendarmerie); and Khaled Nezzar (former defense minister). The two leaders stressed to their visitors their refusal to announce any initiative from prison. [passage omitted]

Zeroual Stresses Need for Economic Austerity

LD0810205995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The council of ministers met today at the presidency under the chairmanship of President Liamine Zeroual. [passage omitted]

In another development, in his reference to the true balance, and the surplus which the state budget should achieve in the short term, the president stressed that economic austerity requires the state to adopt more austere measures, and that social justice, in its turn, imposes severe measures. In this respect, he said that austerity actually obliges us to be extremely alert for a quick success in purging and restructuring public enterprises, because the accumulating expenditure which the state has devoted for this purpose has reached significantly high levels. These expenditures have taken place at the expense of new investment which was considered a source of new job opportunities, and a source of improved services. This requires the government's attention, particularly the managers concerned. At the same time, the volume of our non-oil financial income is still modest, and in comparison with the volume of the loans used in the economy, the volume of our income does not provide a complete cover for the taxes and duties on economic activity. This has formed a shortcoming in the economy, and is a grievance, in particular. This has obliged the state services to collect taxes more effectively, and the tax, customs, control and justice services are required to work in this respect with more determination. [passage omitted]

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS0610122695 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 3 Oct 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The criminal electoral campaign!

Praise be to Allah, Who allows the believers to see through their hardship, the intrigues of their enemies no matter how crafty the later may be.

The Military Junta in Algeria has taken out "its big guns" in the last period of a game it has started in 1992 and which consists of legitimating the illegitimacy under the respectable appellation of "Presidential elections".

What is more sad is not the artificial metamorphose of a military General to a civilian President but the price the Algerian people are paying in the bloody campaign set by the Junta to "prove" to the international community that the "security conditions" are adequate for such elections.

In trying to project the image of being in control and that the armed resistance is a mere problem of criminality with no relation to politics what so ever, the Junta secret police is perpetrating the most horrible crimes which after targeting women and old people are now aiming at children in order to trigger a maximum of repulsion toward its opponents. It has become a routine for the notorious Junta secret police "La S.M" to respond to spectacular legitimate Mujahedeen operation by a spectacular un-Islamic repulsive crime against innocent civilians in order to make the first operation rapidly forgotten and all that is left is the same old image of "babies slaughters".

If the main objective of such behaviour from the Junta is to deceive the International community, this does not exclude the fact that the Generals will be very glad if they can force the Algerian people to vote so they can show some proof of participation but they know they can not. The Junta however will try to influence some of the population using the overused model of "come with us or the monster will coming to eat you and your newly born babies!". It is in this chapter that the internal consequences of "La S.M" foolishness should be read. What the Junta is hiding for after the elections, if the later ever take place, is the elimination of the opposition members of the "national contract" by all means including physical. It is to expect arrests, "outlawing" political parties existence, accident... etc and more tightening on all form of expression that does not conform the Military views.

This is the Junta secret agenda to take the country to full military dictatorship... counting without the Algerian people in general and the Mujahedeen in particular, that is!

Since the beginning, this military regime has never planed right, it still has difficulties in adding one to one, and at the end the results always come out worst than what it wanted to avoid by its cheating practices.

The last example about those "elections" is the rules the Junta have led down concerning the obligation made to the candidates to collect 75000 signatures in 25 departments, nobody so far has met the two conditions SIMULTANEOUSLY except General Zeroual, head of the Junta and Minister of its defence, through the Junta soldiers forced if not forged signatures. "Fain would they deceive Allah and those who believe, but they only deceive themselves and realize (it) not! "(Koran, Surat Al-Baqarah, 2:9)

The proper place of Islamic political forces in the global security equation!

Representatives of the European community and officials from mediterranean countries met last week in the Egyptian capital, to prepare the Barcelona (Spain) conference on the EEC/mediterranean countries cooperation due to take place in November.

The delegates have started to discuss the important chapter of "security and political stability".

Some delegations from mediterranean countries lead by those from Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia, have expressed their views on "security and political stability" as being a problem of "political violence" which needs to be eradicated by all means. The EEC view on the matter is basically that of democracy and reciprocal thrust between States. The Algerian military Junta's envoy to the Cairo meeting, Mr Tifyani declared :"The European see the security based on democracy, Human Rights and market economy. We say to the contrary, we say that cooperation and development must be first established which will lead us to the stability and as a result we will have democracy"! (end of quote). No other official declaration can be more explicit about the objective and nature of the Junta "Presidential elections" which as Mr Tifyani suggests and contrary to what General Zeroual electoral campaign speeches contain, do not have any relation with democracy which remains a hypothetical long term objective in the Junta agenda. Anyway, the object of this theme is to throw some lights over the claims of some regimes of the mediterranean countries which, by their oppressive dictatorial nature, are the principal cause of regional destabilisation. The hanging to power by all means of these obsolete regimes, is forcing many mediterranean societies to deviate their natural transformation from a smooth path to a turbulent and uncertain route.

The real problem is that these regimes have not, will not and can not bring solutions to the multi-aspects crisis faced by their societies in which the nonexistent of thrust between them and the people, is a central factor.

The repressive regimes have maintained alive a myth which according to their false rhetoric, the internal conflicts of their societies are of an economical nature exclusively. For them, keeping the myth alive is essential for their stay in power which is "enforced" through a sophisticated oppressive machine financed, purposely or not, by external loans and debt rescheduling.

The Algerian Junta, the Egyptian, the Tunisian, the... regimes have talked about the "political violence" being a real danger for stability, no one can disagree with that but presenting this violence as some phenomena which burst out of nowhere is a calculated manoeuvre from such regimes to mislead people by pointing out to symptoms while hiding real causes behind the back. Today's "political violence" is a direct consequence of policies that have been and are still being taken by those regimes on a sole ground of perpetuating their stay in power no matter what! It is not difficult for anyone to notice the exact same path of those regimes access to power. Taking advantage of their positions in the military hierarchy, they usually appropriate for themselves the whole institution which then deviates from its constitutional role to become an oppressive tool in their hands, looking inwardly, seizing power and adopting a doctrine whereby their own people become the first potential enemy. The oppressive machine thus created will then become the most important pole of "political violence" used to fulfil personal political ambitions by eliminating political opposition by all means including physical in an environment where disregarding with contempt views, choices and voices of the majority of the people, is the general rule rather than the exception.

The psychological profile of such dictators is in itself a danger for the regional stability. Their obsession for absolute and unchallenged power will "push them" instinctively to open military confrontations with neighbouring states if it comes to a situation whereby their authority becomes seriously challenged internally. They see in opening such conflicts, a golden opportunity to rally the people behind them in the name of patriotism. They would not think twice when choosing between "sacrificing millions of lives" and "staying in power".

Today, these regimes authorities are challenged by other alternatives of which the Islamic movements are the most important contestant. They have no chance against the Islamic mouvance in a "real and clean" political contest having the people as a sovereign and ultimate referee.

The popular, not populist, appeal of the Islamic movements is in itself a political statement made by Muslim societies to their dictatorial regimes. Belittling the political maturity of the people, "devilling" the Islamists or shedding doubts about their intentions, does not change a thing about the real dynamic of change that is taking place within the muslim societies. Many believe that the political, economical, social, cultural... aspects of the Islamic programs are the "best in the market" for the muslim societies of today. Space and time do not allow to open a comparative study of the existing political programs of the Islamic movements and the nonexisting political program of those regimes. What can be said at this stage is that for policies to work, they need convinced people to implement them. In those regimes, the same "managers" were seen "dancing" from the music of Marx to that of Adam Smith in no time, no shame and are ready to reverse back again if needs be to please who ever help them to stay in power. Their opinion can alternate from that of "planing what the people should have for lunch and what color of the shirt they should be wearing in five years time" to the economy of "laisser-faire" depending on the loan providers believes.

Despite their propaganda painting the Islamists as backward people who want to drag societies to the middle ages, these regimes can do nothing to cure the general corruption and incompetency of their administrations run by "yes-sir" opportunists represented by the Nomenklatura. Corruption and incompetency are natural by- products of illegitimate and tricky ways of accessing to power.

The only option left for these regimes is indeed to exercise the very "political violence" against their opponents to whom they try to reverse the accusation and forbid the very existence. The "political violence" is exercised sometimes to "steal" proven and clean electoral victories as the case of Algeria, sometimes as a prevention for imminent electoral victories as in Egypt and Tunisia, sometimes as "illegal" manoeuvres and abuse of authorities as in Jordan, sometimes as.... and sometime as...

There should be no encouragement from the EEC for those following the "Politics of the ostrich" by slamming the political arena's door in the face of authentic political movements which "foundations" emanate from the "inner-self" of those societies. The policy of exclusion is indeed not only a real threat to the "security and political stability" of the mediterranean region and beyond, but it can also have a direct effect on internal political maps of south European countries as is the case of France under the circumstances of this very moment. What would probably happen if this policy of political exclusion is pursued or indeed encouraged?

Keeping on closing the "political arena's door" to Islamists will only result in a situation whereby forces will emerge from within the Islamic movement that will not be interested in opening that door but will come to "destroy" the whole "construction" with the objective of building a new and better one. These forces will have strong arguments provided by the stubbornest of obsolete regimes which pretend not to notice the Islamic aspiration of the people today.

The solution of "starting a model of society from scratch" is not in itself economically sound and a country like Algeria for example, can hardly afford to repeat such a process twice in less than forty years. However, unconditional support to those regimes which is seen as a clear encouragement to the policy followed so far, will render the revolution inevitable and unstoppable by any external support or any economical argument such as the one above.

In Algeria, the "ingredients" which have lead to the popular uprising of the 5 October 1988, are far more stronger now. Today the people frustration provoked by Human Rights abuse and the lost of more than 50 000 lives (so far), is much eager. The oppressed is waiting for the oppressor slightest "false manoeuvre", to make people uprising in Iran and Romania look like a child play comparatively.

Preventing by force this kind of situation is where most of the external financial assistance is going to. This financial burden will undoubtedly reach its limit sooner or latter. In that coming day, people who are today favouring a fair and just political settlement out of compassion for that country, will not be in the "driving seat" but will be in the "back seat" if they will agree with the direction the "train" will be taking then, otherwise they will be out of the decision process making all together. Those familiar with the History of Algeria know that those who use to call a certain Ferhat Abbas a "fellagha and terrorist" had to deal with a certain Krim Belkacem as a certain Houari Boumedien was coming up!

For the sake of a fruitful cooperation with the EEC through "security and political stability", it is imperative and even an emergency to lift all political restriction on Islamic movements of the whole region and free their activities because it is a paradox that in many muslim countries communist parties for example, have all the necessary freedom of movement and support while Islamists are held in concentration camps, jails or forced to exile.

In many part of the Mediterranean region, peaceful options are running out of time and oppressive regimes are getting weaker and expensive to run!

Repercussions of the recent events on ordinary people of Algerian descendence in France!

Khaled Kelkel the alleged perpetrator of the last bomb attacks was killed by French gendarmes. As soon as Kelkal was detected, the region was encircled by seven hundreds well equipped gendarmes. According to the French Prime minister, the killing of Khaled Kelkal was an "act of legitime defence". No victims in the ranks of the Gendarmes were reported. As a "Premiere" in the French T.V, Khaled Kelkal was shown dying live and this has trigger complain from some organisations who find that "voyeurism" repulsive. Many observers saw that this killing will leave many grey areas on the "who, how and what" of the recent bomb attacks. The killing of Kelkal will leave many with the frustrating feeling of "now the real truth will never be fully known" particularly when just after his death the french authorities felt that now it was time to inform the public that Kelkal was also involved in the murder of shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui one of the FIS founder. The french police say that ballistic examinations have "proved" that bullets found in the region where Kelkal was killed come from the same weapon as that used in the assassination of Shaykh Abdelbaki. Knowing from the recent past that the same police do make "big mistakes" such as letting "involuntary" a very compromising document into the belongings of one of the FIS supporter in France, one will always take their report with caution to say the least. Those who do insist in knowing the whole story about the killing of their beloved shaykh, want to see more "evidence" such as a formal witness confirmation (without any pressure!) that Kelkal was in the place of the murder when it happen.

Besides the "too many and too frequent" arrests of "Islamists" by the French authorities including an old women of...65 years of age, the ambience in France is getting worst for people who simply look of North African origin. This "ambience" is well exploited by political parties like that of Le Pen who apparently has won very precieuse points in the polls. Following is an article from the french newspaper "LE CANARD ENCHAINE" of the 13/09/95 which gives a "felling" of the psychological ordeal that people of North African origin in general and the Algerian origin in particular, are going through because of criminal incitation of some media and illegal behaviour of a part of the French authorities: "Tuesday 01/08/95, Mohammed left his friends whom he has helped moving to a flat near "La Gare de Lyon" in Paris. He is diabetic and on a regular medical treatment but sometimes he is overcome by his illness which makes him faint. In his wallet, he has a diabetic card. Mohammed took the metro at Gare-de-Lyon and two stations latter did not feel well. He left the metro and went outside to buy something sweet when suddenly he collapsed. He remembers that there were people around him and that everything was turning around... He regain conscience in a moving vehicle. He is on the floor, handcuffed, head blocked by heavy boots,, his feet were tied up and he was being beaten. He looked up and saw three policemen around him with two of them beating him methodically. He was still not feeling well from his illness but was able to shout that he is diabetic not a criminal and he needed some sugar. They increased their beatings. Mohammed was so afraid that he could almost overcome his pain. The police vehicle entered Saint- Antoin hospital. He is still on the floor, hands and feet tied up. He had cuts in the head and elbow from where blood was coming out. He asked to sit, they refused. A doctor entered in the vehicle, Mohammed asked to be untied, they refused once more. He was transported to the emergency room which the three policemen were now guarding.

A second doctor arrived and was surprised by the trace of beatings. He insisted that the youngster should be untied. The medical examination begun: His glycaemia ratio was 0.30 which is a stage known as "third degree" and is at the limit of a state of coma. Mohammed explain to the doctor what has happen in the police vehicle. The doctor who was shocked went on to explain to the policemen Mohammed's health condition. Unmoved, the policemen stayed still guarding the room and Mohammed was afraid. As soon as he felt better, he asked to go. He was advised to stay. The doctor went to tell the policemen that Mohammed can get out of hospital but that his illness is very serious and that he is in a state close to that of coma. At the first time the policemen wanted to take their "patient" to the police station, but then followed the doctor arguments and signed a discharge form which set Mohammed free to go.

When the policemen walk out, Mohammed out of reflex looked inside his wallet at his personnel document, his residence card was missing. But as the policemen are "good guys", they gave him his card back.

Charges have been pressed to the Judge (Procureur) but the latter has not moved a finger. This is what is called moving to the third Debre" (End of article) Debre is the French interior minister.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Elections, NDP Candidacy

NC0910144195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak emphasized that the Egyptian people have the first choice and can make a real decision to select deputies to represent them. No one, regardless of his position, can impose a certain person on the people and there in no intervention or pressure in this regard, he added.

In statements to the MAYU newspaper today, President Mubarak appealed to the people to cling to their electoral right and to go to the ballot boxes to cast their votes and elect their representatives. An elected deputy, he said, should represent a genuine majority and the voters should have complete freedom to choose their representatives.

President Mubarak said there is permanent concern to apply the principle of justice and equality and achieve a balance of opportunities for all. He added that a democratic structure cannot be complete and will not be a tangible actuality unless it is transformed to an existing reality. The citizen, he noted, must realize that his vote is a trust and that his duty toward his country requires him to participate positively in the election process.

Commenting on the National Democratic Party [NDP] nominations for the next People's Assembly, President Mubarak told the MAYU newspaper that an NDP candidate must enjoy many traits, primarily integrity, clean handedness, a good reputation, passion for serving people, and popularity in his constituency.

President Mubarak asked the electorate to choose the best deputies, who should be among the most competent and suitable people. He emphasized the need for a parliament expressing the nation's conscience, defending its interests, and protecting the nation's rights. This parliament, he said, should be the theme of the era of democracy and freedom which Egypt enjoys.

Mubarak, Delegation Leave for Syria

NC1010084495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0825 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Damascus this morning on a visit to Syria, during which he will meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials.

The president's talks will deal with developments in the Middle East peace process and ways to boost bilateral relations in the different fields.

President Mubarak is being accompanied on his visit by a delegation including Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Security Announces Arrest of 14 MB Members

NC0910160595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1417 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—The State Security Detectives Apparatus arrested today 14 members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood [MB] on charges of providing help to Upper Egypt terrorists, planning to undermine the country's security, and exploiting the elections campaign to serve their own ends.

An official security source stated that the new group of suspects was planning to open new channels of communication with fugitive terrorist leaders in al-Minya and Asyut Governorates and supply them with financial help.

The source added that police moles who infiltrated the Muslim Brotherhood leadership circles supplied verified information to the State Security Detectives Apparatus that a new leadership group had been formed whose task was to open new communication channels with fugitive terrorist leaders, particularly in al-Minya and Asyut Governorates, and supply them with funds.

The source noted that the group also planned to provide financial assistance to the families of terrorists, convicts, and suspects in terrorism cases in the context of ongoing solidarity between the Brotherhood and terrorist groups.

The security source declared that the arrested group was also planning to incite the population by issuing inflammatory statements and leaflets containing sharp criticism of the authorities. They were planning to distribute the leaflets in the country's central provinces and in Lower Egypt.

The source said that the Brotherhood group also sought to incite some professional associations, whose councils are controlled by the Muslim Brothers, to agitate against the government's decision to try some Brotherhood leaders before military courts.

The group planned to issue pamphlets, posters, and other printed materials and to publish news in the partisan newspapers designed to create confusion and uncertainty in the country.

The information received by the State Security Detectives Apparatus specified the ranks of the leading Brotherhood officials who had drawn up these plans. The group included 15 leading Muslim Brotherhood members.

Also known to the State Security apparatus was that other Brotherhood groups had been instructed to implement the plans in Alexandria, Al-Minya, and Asyut Governorates. The attorney general of the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office was informed of the Brotherhood's plan, the identities of the people involved in it, and the implications of the whole scheme.

The security source said that the homes of the group's members were searched and the following persons were arrested:

-Al-Sayyid Mahmud 'Izzat Ibrahim 'Isa, physician and professor at al-Zaqaziq University's Medical School;
-Husayn Husayn Shihatah, professor at al-Azhar University's Business School and member of the General Association of Merchants;
-'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh 'Abd-al-Hadi, pediatrician and secretary general of the Doctors General Association;
-Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Miliji, lecturer at the Suez Canal University's College of Sciences;
-Muhyi-al-Din Muhammad Mahmud al-Zayit, physician at a public health clinic;
-Sa'd Zaghlul al-'Ishmawi, physician and director of a public health clinic;
-Muhammad Gharib 'Abd-al-'Aziz, lawyer;
-Muhammad Sa'd 'Ulaywah, physician;
-Mahmud Husayn Ahmad Hasan, professor at Asyut University's School of Architecture and financial secretary of the General Association of Engineers;
-Mahmud al-Sayyid Basyuni, an engineer in Tukh;
-Lashin 'Ali 'Abdallah Abu-Shanab, a retired teacher;
-Anwar Hasan Shihatah, doctor;
-Hilmi Mustafa Mahmud, owner of a drapery store.

'Ali Mutawalli 'Ali Salim, a bookstore proprietor in Abu Hammad, evaded arrest and is now a fugitive.

The responsible security source said that for some time movements by Brotherhood members in a number of Upper and Lower Egypt governorates to carry out the group's plan were foiled. The Brotherhood movement's leader in al-Minya Governorate, 'Ali Ahmad 'Umran, and four of his aides were arrested, and their car and huge sums of money in their possession seized, in case no 4811/95 under the jurisdiction of al-Minya police station.

Al-Minya Prosecution ordered their precautionary detention and the retention of the seized items and the car. The prosecution also ordered the arrest of the Brotherhood organization's leader in the Asyut Governorate, Mahmud Husayn Ahmad Hasan, for his role in the plan and for his involvement in supporting and financing terrorist activities in the governorate.

Besides these, 10 members of the Brotherhood organization in the Alexandria Governorate were arrested for their role in that plan. The Alexandria Prosecution began investigating them in case no 2425/95, under the jurisdiction of al-Muntazah Police station, and ordered their detention.

An inspection of the residence places of the arrested Brotherhood leaders today resulted in the discovery of important organizational documents and papers concerning the organization's formations in several governorates, the organization members' daily, weekly, and monthly follow up programs, and the organization's plans for movement in various circles during the People's Assembly elections.

The security source said written papers were also seized. The papers contained an assessment of the organization's status in one of the Lower Egypt governorates, including the number of the organization's personnel, their geographical distribution, size of the public and clandestine activity in the governorate, levels of penetration in various sectors, and the rate of recruitment, growth of the organization, and its impact. This is in addition to photographs of leader 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh 'Abd-al-Hadi, secretary general of the Physicians Association, and of others from the Afghan mujahidin in battle fields in Afghanistan. Organizational papers were also seized concerning the phases of the organization's movement—preliminary, structural, and preparatory—and the time periods and goals of each phase.

Several letters and statements exchanged between the organization's leadership in Egypt and its counterpart in Sudan were also seized. The Sudanese letters, signed by the organization's leader in Sudan, al-Sadiq 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid, contained a review of the organization's situation there, its method of movement and links with the mother organization in Cairo.

The security source added that other organizational documents were also seized. They contained the organization's plans, formations, standards, methods of movement, and the structure devised to oversee destructive schemes during elections, schemes entrusted with what was dubbed the elections operations room.

Papers were also seized containing the program of a new undeclared illegitimate political party called the Egyptian reform party. The papers contained the party's bylaws and goals which focus on serving the outlawed group's organizational movement, cards for intelligence personnel at foreign embassies in the country, telephone numbers of several foreign news agencies and radio stations and their representatives in Egypt. The bylaws contained the group's pyramidal structure, grassroots and leadership formations, a large number of slogans and posters bearing the name and slogan of the Muslim Brotherhood.

A large number of video and audio cassette tapes were also found. They contained recordings of public and secret organizational meetings of the Muslim Brothers ready for copying and distribution. They attack the current regime, denounce its policies, and condemn the referral of the Brothers to military courts. The seized items also included a fax machine, a large number of computer discs now being copied, and sums of money in local and foreign currencies.

Ross Views Peace Efforts, Amman Summit

NC0710074695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Denis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, has stated that President Husni Mubarak is playing an indispensable role in ensuring the success of the peace settlement in the Middle East.

In an interview with AKHBAR AL-YAWM published today Ross said that late President Anwar al-Sadat's historic initiative deserves every credit for all the achievements that have been made on the path to peace. Ross noted that Egypt is the backbone of the peace process and that President Husni Mubarak has done all he could during the crucial and delicate moments through which the peace settlement efforts have passed.

Ross said there is an agreement between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton that the complete peace process needs the participation of both Syria and Lebanon. He noted that the United States is fully committed to establishing peace in the Middle East. It will do all it can to achieve this goal, Ross added.

Ross urged the parties concerned with the peace process to overcome their differences and make the appropriate decisions to help the U.S. efforts to achieve peace.

The U.S. coordinator said the self-rule agreement is based on the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles, which clearly refers to the UN Security Council resolutions regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict. Ross expressed the conviction that the Israeli and Palestinian sides made specific decisions on the issue of Jerusalem when they signed the Declaration, because it noted that the status of Jerusalem will be decided upon during the subsequent and final stages of the peace settlement process. He said the two sides also agreed to set out the basis for coexistence and relations before moving on to discuss thorny issues like Jerusalem.

Ross called on the enemies of peace to realize that the peace forces are determined to forge ahead and forget the past. Therefore, every effort to obstruct the peace process is doomed, he added.

Asked about the Amman economic summit slated for the end of October, Ross said the summit objective is to make the Middle East an investment region for the sake of the nations' interests.

Editorial on 'Abd-al-Rahman's Conviction by U.S.

NC0610120295 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 2 Oct 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The Road to the Abyss Reaches its Destination"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The conviction of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman and his nine colleagues by a U.S. jury in a major terrorist case is undoubtedly significant. This significance has several aspects, in our view, the most important of which are:

1. The conviction is a judicial decision and not just a political one that can be contested or doubted as being biased against 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and his group of plotters. The decision was taken slowly and not hastily following a nine month trial during which the jury heard more than 200 witnesses and viewed hundreds of pieces of evidence and documents. The 12 member jury, six men and six women, even reached their decision unanimously.

2. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the man who began as a shaykh and ended as a terrorist and a fugitive from justice, was known to be a "client" of the CIA which, in collaboration with the al-Bashir-al- Turabi regime in Sudan, organized his escape to the United States five years ago through the U.S. embassy in Khartoum. But because being an agent is always the road to the abyss and shame and because agents and traitors are always people without conscience, religion, or morals, it was therefore natural for 'Abd-al-Rahman to end up in this befitting way. The United States first used him and then brought him to trial in 1993 on charges of bigamy (which is illegal there), issuing checks without assets, and of giving false information to the U.S. consul in Khartoum. The United States did this to him because it became convinced that he had become a burned out agent. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman himself was no less contemptible. Among the evidence against him was a video tape in which he called on his followers to stage terrorist operations against U.S. Army targets, the army of the state that supposedly gave him shelter and welcomed him. It is not yet clear who started to betray whom. Was it 'Abd-al-Rahman who betrayed the United States first or was it the latter? At any rate, this hypothetical issue is not of much importance because we said at the beginning that the road of being an agent is the road to the abyss. It does not matter who went down first: 'Umar or the United States.

3. Four of the defendants convicted with 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman are Sudanese. In my view, this is no mere coincidence but signifies the relationship between terrorism in Egypt and the terrorism ruling Sudan. This might not

be legal evidence but is certainly one inference that denotes the ties between the terrorism of al-Turabi's front which controls Sudan's ruling regime and the terrorism of the al-Jihad Organization whose undisputed mufti at one time was 'Abd- al-Rahman. This fellow ordered in a fatwa the killing of President al-Sadat, God's mercy be on him, and also called on the organization to plot against the life of President Mubarak, may God protect him from all evil.

4. The conviction of 'Abd-al-Rahman by a U.S. court took place after the United States itself began to suffer from the destructive fire of terrorism, whether terrorism committed under the cloak of Islam but of which Islam is innocent or terrorism created by American society itself (the Oklahoma incident). This in fact should be a lesson for the European countries that are sheltering terrorists such as al-Zawahiri and others. These terrorists will turn against the countries sheltering them in the same way that 'Abd-al-Rahman turned against the United States. These European countries will pay the price for their erroneous applications of the concept of human rights and their attempts to use these concepts to protect their terrorist agents who are fugitives from Egypt and other Middle East countries. They are doing so in the hope of exploiting them one day to achieve some of their political objectives. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's case is certainly a warning shot for Europe and we hope they will heed it.

These are the most important aspects of the significance of the conviction of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman by the jury of a U.S. federal court. We hope that our youths will ponder 'Abd-al-Rahman's case, the blind youth who began as a shaykh and ended a fugitive from justice because he fell prey to a wrong concept of Islam that makes our tolerant and true religion a call to violence, destruction, and blood. From the moment of its birth, Islam has never preached anything but love, tolerance, construction, and all the meanings of right, justice, and beauty. Islam has always had the values of strength and nobility and it has never preached dirty schemes like 'Abd-al-Rahman did. This is why he continued along the road to the abyss and the inevitable quick end.

Al-Baz Says Israel To Investigate POW Issue

NC1010064495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that Israel has expressed great willingness to investigate the killings of Egyptian POW's.

Speaking upon his return to Cairo from New York, Dr. al-Baz said he hoped the investigation will be held as soon as possible. He said President Mubarak is very interested in this issue, which concerns Egypt, both Government and people.

In the United States Dr. al-Baz held talks on revitalizing the Middle East peace process.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Criticizes U.S. Motive on Peace

LD0710235995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2020 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the leadership of the al-Batnan region on 7 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It is a great thing that in your region of al-Batnan you have so many experts with very high qualifications. It is a great gain. [Words indistinct] The revolution, the people, and the state have no problem when the person is educated. It would be a problem if it were the other way around. [passage omitted]

I am delighted at the number of the highly qualified experts here. However, the plan presented here seems to have the character of a recommendation rather than a plan. [passage omitted]

I am certain if we proceed along the proper line, the Libyan track will be an international one and more beneficial. It is because it has no other intentions like those that usually lurk behind the programs of governments, parties, and election promises used for home consumption.

When the American president called the Jordanian King or 'Arafat he said to them: Come and sign. To good people like us we are delighted to see a nation solve its problems and solve the issue of peace in the Middle East. But Clinton wants to succeed in the elections. He wants to participate in solving the Middle East problem or solve the Middle East problem or ensure the safety of the Jews through recognizing them and ensuring their secure border. Here we see the Palestinians signing for the benefit of the Jews.

The peace program seems clear but has other cunning intentions behind it, selfish and beneficial intentions. The American president wants to succeed in the elections when he exploits this paper. If he succeeded, afterward, the Middle East or the Near East would be of not much interest to him. Both can go to hell as far as he is concerned; because his purpose is to succeed in the elections. And if he is elected for another four years he would not be able to be re-elected for a third period. Thus, the Middle East problem (?would become of no interest to him). The governments, the people nominated for election, the deputies and parliaments all have aims to serve. Parties put forward programs to deceive the people in order to have the support and the votes of the people.

The thing that makes us confident in our program is that it does not have these things. We are earnest in building our country through the authority of the people and with our ability and (? economic) potentials. No one has a special interest in this program like canvassing for votes or a party that is in need of people to support it. We have gotten rid of these things which proved the failure of the governments — the parliaments and the parties and rigged elections. We are a free people who govern themselves by themselves. We are earnest in this. Consequently, if we draw up a proper program from the beginning, I am sure we will succeed inevitably, God willing. The popular leadership is a social umbrella. The people would feel reassured because of it. It brings people together. They would feel that they have a leadership. [passage omitted]

The United Nations had been created by nations so that it protects peace and protects small nations and eliminate wars. Today, they are using the United Nations as sword that hangs over our heads. In the name of the United Nations we are besieged. In its name they wage wars and impose sanctions. A tyrant power like America comes along and controls the United Nations and dominates its resolutions. When we talk about the United Nations, where is it? It is supposed to be all the nations which have become united. But actually it is not like this. Each government sends an official who is bought by America [words indistinct] or that the ruler becomes a hireling of America and he sends an official to deputize for him and to occupy the UN seat.

In actual fact, the number of seats is about 185, occupied by 185 members who represent 185 nations. Actually they are like 185 officials representing 185 rulers who are interested in one thing and the nations are interested in something else. We deal with officials. They adopt a resolution against Libya or Iraq or Yugoslavia or Somalia. Thus, the United Nations has become a sword that is directed at us. [passage omitted]

Ministry Responds to U.S. Remarks on Expulsions

LD0710161595 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official spokesman for the U.S. State Department has expressed great regret at any country's decision to expel Palestinians who had contributed to the economic prosperity of Arab countries.

In reply to the U.S. official spokesman, a spokesman for the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has made the following statement:

The Palestinians have struggled with Arab and non-Arab support for over half a century to return, in accordance with the UN resolutions, to their country to which thousands of emigrants, who had contributed to prosperity in their original countries, have moved. They are of differing nationalities from eastern and western Europe and other countries. The United States has not expressed regret at that wave of immigration to Palestine; nay, it has offered support to anyone who wanted to settle in Palestine.

After Oslo, Palestinians thought that their struggle had achieved the objective and that their return was possible. Otherwise, what is the point of peace if Palestinians remain in diaspora? Economic prosperity is needed in the self-rule areas more so than any other country, and money is being collected for that purpose.

The U.S. spokesman's statement indicates that the return of Palestinians to their country after such a long wait will never materialize, despite all the agreements and conventions which did not pay the required attention to the question of the return. On the contrary, they confirm that the self-rule areas are a new kind of ghetto, from where one cannot go out to another country and it is not possible to enter. Palestinians, according to the U.S. story, have to settle in diaspora to contribute towards the prosperity of Arab countries, which is a sufficient reason for not returning.

The U.S. spokesman warns all Arab countries to prevent Palestinians from returning so that the countries would realize their prosperity. The agreement has not determined a plan or date for their return.

Government Condemns U.S. Newspaper's Report

LD0810120495 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 8 Oct — A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Information and International Cooperation at the General People's Committee for Information and Mass Mobilization has made the following statement on a report published in the HERALD TRIBUNE:

We view what was published in the HERALD TRIBUNE as one of those reports that had been prepared in advance and always available to distort opinions and ideas, which had not been mentioned originally, in the leader of the revolution's [al-Qadhdhafi's] statements and speeches on the real problem of the Palestinian people.

The HERALD TRIBUNE report on the leader of the revolution's speech at the celebration held to mark the 25th anniversary of the expulsion of Italian invaders was full of fallacies, interpretations and distortions about what was said by the leader in his speech. The following confirm the banality and lack of credibility of the report:

1. The HERALD TRIBUNE did not have a correspondent or an editor at the place where the celebration was held;

2. The newspaper claimed that the leader of the revolution had promised to expel all the Palestinians who are living in Libya. This is a blatantly false claim, because that was not stated explicitly or implicitly in the leader of the revolution's speech; it was merely the HERALD TRIBUNE's fantasy;

3. The newspaper claimed that the Palestinians had no homeland. The truth, which Western media ignores, is that the Palestinians have a homeland from which they were driven out by force, and it is time for them to return to it;

4. The newspaper falsely claimed that the leader spoke on behalf of every exiled Palestinian. However, what the leader really said in his speech was: I am the foremost defender of the Palestinian people. I am the most concerned about and closest to Palestinians anywhere on earth, and I challenge any charlatan who would come between me and the Palestinian people;

5. The HERALD TRIBUNE's dubious report has confused the Palestinians' wish to return and the issue of employment as a whole in Libya. In this blatant mix-up, the HERALD TRIBUNE ignored the existence since 1984 of resolutions by the basic people's congresses, the decision makers, regarding employment, and went on to claim that Libya had announced that it would not renew the Palestinians' contracts. This claim is sheer fabrication refuted by reassurances by official authorities that the contracts of the Palestinian work force had not ended.

The leader of the revolution confirmed this in his speech, when he said: Every Palestinian who lives in Libya, whether a teacher or a doctor, who returns to Palestine to teach or treat the sons of Palestine will have his salary paid by Libya as though he was working in Libya;

6. In its previously prepared fantasy report, the HERALD TRIBUNE falsely reported that security officers were following correspondents while they were interviewing Palestinians. This falsehood was exposed by a host of press reports by correspondents, which included interviews with Palestinians at their camps, but no mention of the claims made by the HERALD TRIBUNE.

The correspondent of AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, who was in the camp, refuted the HERALD TRIBUNE's claim not only by reporting statements and interviews with whoever was in the camp, but also by conveying a clear picture of the groups in the camp that surrounded the bus that took journalists to the Egyptian border, and forced everyone to bring out their tape recorders and writing pads to convey their appeal to the Arab states to open their border for the diaspora Palestinians to march to the Palestinian border and return to Palestine, without the presence of any "Libyan security officers," according to the correspondent.

There are so many fallacies, interpretations, and perceptions in the HERALD TRIBUNE report that exist only in the imagination of the report's writer, whom we advise to reread the leader of the revolution's speech to understand its content without resorting to fabrications and preconceptions.

Editor Responds to U.S. Comments on Expulsions

*LD0610193495 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1710 GMT 6 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] JANA, 6 Oct (JANA) — News indicates that the official U.S. State Department spokesman expressed his extreme regret about any country's decision to expel the Palestinians whom, he said, had contributed towards the economic prosperity of the Arab countries.

JANA's political affairs editor commented on this by saying:

By this statement, the United States has confirmed what the brother leader of the revolution had warned about the day before yesterday, that the Zionist plan stipulated that the Palestinians melt into the world and encouraged each country to offer them nationality and enable them to settle there so that the Palestinians stay away from their land in implementation of this plan which demands that the Arab rulers keep the Palestinians in their countries and prevent them from returning to their homeland.

The editor stressed that this U.S. statement highlights that what we had said has become a reality and the U.S. imperialist plan has become obvious to everyone. This proves that we had foretold this plan before the U.S. State Department's statement.

The editor added that on the surface, the statement by the U.S. spokesman carried mercy but, in essence, it carried misery and pain for the sons of Palestine whom they wanted to continue to stay in the diaspora, settle them outside their original homeland, and to deprive them of their right to return.

The JANA political affairs editor asked: What is the meaning of these crocodile tears? He said: The involvement of a U.S. State Department's spokesman to make such a statement only meant that they have issued the orders to the Arab countries in order to settle the Palestinians in them in implementation of the imperialist Zionist plan which has become obvious and highly exposed. As the brother leader of the revolution stressed the day before yesterday, we will not rule out orders being issued tomorrow from Tel Aviv or Washington, to any country in the east or the west of the Arab world to settle the Palestinians there.

JANA Critical of UK, IRA, Lockerbie Issue

LD0610183395 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1705 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 6 Oct (JANA) — The English Intelligence Radio known as London Radio [referring to the BBC World Service] has quoted the English foreign ministry as saying that if Libya did not furnish England with what it described as sufficient information about its relations with the Irish Republican Army [IRA], English doubts about Libya would remain.

JANA's international affairs editor has commented on this, saying: What has been attributed to the English foreign ministry reveals once again the chain of events which we have previously repeatedly exposed. The situation in Iraq is a testimony to that... Iraq has offered, and is still offering, concessions without gaining anything. Undoubtedly, this is what they want from us... and they want that to be as they wish it... the question, therefore, is one of mood... and we have no idea about the limits of that mood.

The editor asked: Is the question about matters which have been agreed on, or is it subject to their mood and what they want.

The editor added: This prevents us from trusting those who want to bring about that chain of events which has become clear and obvious. It confirms one fact, namely, that those who do not deal with them are better off than those who do... this leaves nothing but confrontation between us.

The editor asked: What do they mean by saying that they want sufficient answers? How could these answers be sufficient? This is blatant extortion and an attempt to suck our blood and harm our honor.

In this context, the JANA international affairs editor pointed out a report in the English newspaper THE GUARDIAN yesterday which said that England believed that to complete the investigation concerning IRA arms may be an incentive to what it described as handing over the suspects in the so-called Lockerbie issue. The editor said that that was the extortion which exposed their chain; instead of saying that Libya had demonstrated its cooperation and agreeing to hold the trial of the suspects in a neutral country, they ask for more and more and continue the extortion as is the case now with Iraq.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Britain's 'Obstinacy'

LD0710152395 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In reply to Dominic Sebastian Schroeder [name as heard], the official spokesman of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office [FCO], an official source at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation [Foreign Ministry] made the following statement:

Britain has confirmed on more than one occasion that there had been more than an initiative of goodwill by the Libyan Arab side. Here is Schroeder, speaking for the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office saying that his country has not shown any initiative of goodwill in the past and will not show any initiative of goodwill in the future, on the basis of a decision which — Britain is aware of more than others — is not based on evidence and proof.

It [Britain] is also aware that the many new developments that the British and Westerners have contributed to, refute the charges and the indictment that was based on them.

Libyan goodwill is being confirmed day after day, evident in the positive way the Great Jamahiriyah has been dealing with the UN Security Council Resolution 731 as positive, while Britain demonstrates every day its obstinacy and stubbornness, which is no longer acceptable to the world public opinion and peoples who stand by the Great Jamahiriyah in this contrived confrontation. This has deepened the doubts of the world's peoples regarding British intentions.

German Report on al-Qadhdhafi Speech Criticized

LD0810102495 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 8 Oct (JANA) — A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Information and International Cooperation at the General People's

Committee for Information and Mass Mobilization described the German news agency's report of the leader's [Al-Qadhdhafi's 4 October] speech on the 25th anniversary of the expulsion of Italians as media bankruptcy and cheap stirring which no longer attracts even teenagers.

The spokesman said that the agency's claim that Palestinians fled from their land after the transplantation of the Israeli entity in 1948 was a cheap attempt to override historical facts and to vulgarize the human mind.

The agency is well aware that in 1948 Palestinians did not flee but were driven out by the Zionist military machinery. The memory of the Dir Yasin massacre is still imprinted in the minds of the Palestinian generation whose eyes first opened to the killing of children and old people, and the ripping open of pregnant women in every Palestinian village and town.

The German news agency did not stop at falsifying history and ignoring its facts; it claimed knowledge about an increased birth rate in Libya. The spokesman said: The agency has the right to claim knowledge, but we have the right to say that the last population census was held this year and its results have not yet been published. So, where did the German agency get the information about the increased birth rate which was included in its report?

The agency may not have the answer to this question, but we are well aware of the motive behind leaking reports like that, which all contribute to the same thing, namely to distort Libya's image and to confuse public opinion about its independent stands, direction, and options.

Editor Applauds French Foreign Minister's Remarks

LD0810171195 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 8 al-Tumur [Oct] — The French foreign minister has said that his country does not harbor any hostile sentiment toward the Arab Libyan people. Reports also quoted the French minister, at the end of the French president's visit to Tunisia, as having said that France calls on Libya, as he put it, to respect the Security Council's resolutions pertaining to the question of suspects in the Lockerbie case.

JANA international affairs editor has expressed his appreciation for the remarks of the French foreign minister in regard of the good intentions France holds for the Arab Libyan people which emanate from the positive stances characterizing French policy since the beginning of the current president Jacques Chirac's era and the new direction of the independent French foreign policy in basing relations on fruitful cooperation between all peoples away from hatred, grudges, and colonialist schemes.

The editor added, regarding what the French minister termed as respecting the Security Council's resolutions, that we would like to remind the French official of the cooperation shown and still being shown by the Great Jamahiriyah with the United Nations and of its successive positive initiatives to reach a settlement to the so-called Lockerbie issue which were supported by all regional and international institutions and organizations. The states of the world have announced their response and support for the position of the Great Jamahiriyah in this respect.

Concluding his comments, the international affairs editor said that while we remind the French official of those positive initiatives, we underline the keen interest of the Great Jamahiriyah in developing and enhancing the relations of fruitful cooperation between the two countries at all levels. We have started to trust that the independent policy pursued by France will provide a positive impetus in the interest of both the Arab Libyan and the French peoples.

Sudan

Opposition Party Claims Regime Arresting Students

NC0910162295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The [opposition] Sudanese Ummah Party's Committee for Freedoms and Human Rights said today that the ruling regime in Khartoum has arrested a large number of citizens and students in the city of (al-Hasahisah) in the central region in Sudan.

The committee said in its statement that their arrest was part of a large-scale campaign covering thousands of citizens and students. Some of them, it added, are still being subjected to physical and psychological torture in prisons and special security detention centers.

Ending its statement, the committee appealed to all organizations and individuals concerned with human rights, primarily the special envoy appointed by the United Nations to observe human rights in Sudan, to work for these detainees' immediate release.

Force Being Established To 'Crush' Garang Rebels

EA0810200395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The secretary general of the higher council for peace, Mr. Lino rol Deng, has affirmed that Sudan had succeeded in (?foiling) all the schemes that target its unity, and that it was capable of overcoming all forms of undeclared blockades that had been imposed on it.

In a statement to AL-INQADH AL-WATANI newspaper published today, His Excellency disclosed that the first steps had been taken to set up a military establishment composed of Bor citizens to crush the rebel John Garang de Mabior and take charge of the leadership of the movement in preparation for serious dialogue with the government to achieve peace in the country.

His Excellency said that there was a growing conviction among larger sections of southern Sudanese about the futility of the war, especially after the rebel Garang rejected all peace initiatives and dialogue with the government. His Excellency then talked about the continuing fighting between different factions and the heightened differences among the leaders of the rebel movement. He went on to say that active elements from the rebel movement, numbering between 1,000 and 1,500 fighters, have returned to Bahr al-Ghazal.

He said that the rebel movement has lost the support of the masses in the south as well as the military support following the decision [words indistinct]. He said that the movement has no existence in reality, but that the western quarters opposed to Sudan and its cultural program were the ones promoting it in order to implement their imperialist objectives.

Rebel Groups Reject Talks; Meeting Cancelled

AB0910193595 Paris AFP in English
1310 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nairobi, 9 Oct (AFP) — Reconciliation talks between Sudanese rebel groups scheduled to open in Nairobi on Monday [9 October], were called off after the two main factions said they would not attend.

A spokesman for the rebel South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A), Majok Guandong, ruled out the possibility of his faction's participating in the talks, saying that conditions were "not favourable" because its rival had violated a ceasefire. Guandong accused John Garang's mainstream Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) of violating a truce agreed between the two factions in the southern Sudan town of Lafon in April.

"SSIM/A is not taking part because conditions are not favourable ...Garang violated the Lafon ceasefire agreement and as we speak fighting is going on between the two factions in Ayod and Akoba," Guandong told AFP.

SPLM/A Peace Committee chairman Pagan Okiech Amum also said that his group found it difficult to attend the meeting due to the way it had been convened. Amum said it was not "procedurally correct" for the meeting to be convened by a spokesman of the Union of Sudan African Parties (USAP) in East Africa, Samuel Aru Bol, without the knowledge of chairman of the group.

Amum warned that although Aru Bol was entitled to call a reconciliation meeting in his own right as an elder, if he was credible enough to attract participation of all interested parties "it is not appropriate, or indeed right to use the name of USAP when the initiative is in fact not that of USAP."

"It has become fashionable for South Sudanese to form Nairobi-based movements, but if Aru Bol wants to form his own organisation, he should not use the slogan of reconciliation and unity of the SPLM/A as a camouflage to achieve such an objective," Guandong said.

"Regrettably, we are also aware that reconciliation and unity have become lucrative commodities which many individuals and organisations use to raise vast amounts of money for survival and self-interest, and the SPLM/A will not be a party to promote such a culture of peace vultures," Gandong added.

The USAP-organised meeting, was originally planned to take place last month and to involve 15 Sudanese opposition groups, but it is still unclear how many expressed interest. The SPLM/A last month denied that it had been invited. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Meets With Bosnia's Silajdzic

LD0910140595 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At Carthage Palace this morning, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic. After the meeting Prime Minister Silajdzic said that he had conveyed to his excellency the president the greetings of President Ilija Izetbegovic as well as his gratitude to Tunisia, its president, and its people, for their continuous support for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly in bad times.

He also hoped that Tunisia would continue the diplomatic and economic support for Bosnia-Herzegovina which has so far been a hallmark of Tunisian backing for the Bosnian cause.

The meeting was attended by the Tunisian prime minister and the Bosnian ambassador in Tunis.

France's Chirac Salutes 'Tunisian Miracle'

LD0610233995 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] French President Jacques Chirac saluted once again what he termed as the Tunisian miracle in a speech he delivered this morning before the House of Deputies meeting in a special general session chaired by House Speaker Habib Boulares and Mr. Philippe Seguin, speaker of the French National Assembly.

The president of the French Republic reiterated what he had said for the first time two years ago on his visit to Tunisia concerning the existence of a Tunisian miracle and stressed that his remark continues to apply in regard to the situation in Tunisia today. He saluted, as he put it, this quiet revolution led by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in an atmosphere of stability, the voluntary spirit loyal to national values, this march on the road of modernism with respect for traditions and this continuous interest in realizing equilibriums.

President Jacques Chirac highlighted the French people's interest in the reforms taking place in Tunisia and their admiration for the results achieved, starting with the figures for the rates of growth. He added that the economic progress is worthy of admiration, particularly because it comes within a sound social atmosphere and that the appropriate social policy being applied under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has made it possible to defeat the sources of poverty and misery. [passage omitted]

President Jacques Chirac concluded his speech by appealing to the members of the House of Deputies to continue the fruitful dialogue, upholding tolerance rather than fanaticism, the spirit of openness over the forces of hatred and conflict, and the building of a common future together.

Foreign Minister Meets French Counterpart

LD0710102895 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An authorized source at the Foreign Ministry announced the outcome achieved by the Tunisian and French sides during a working session held on 5 October between Habib Ben Yahya and his French counterpart Herve de Charette.

The source said that the talks took place amid an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual trust, during which the two ministers expressed the firm determination of the two countries to bolster the friendly and cooperative relations existing between them in all fields and to give bilateral relations a new impetus as a result of the new dynamics provided by the French president's visit. The two ministers reviewed all issues of common interest and various aspects of bilateral relations.

Embodying the desires of the two presidents, the two sides agreed to establish regular bilateral consultations, which would provide for the two presidents to meet every year, the two countries' foreign and interior ministers to hold regular meetings, and other ministerial meetings to be held whenever necessary.

The intensified political consultations between the countries will enable them to find quick solutions for the files of pending issues between the countries and will give a new start and prospect for a dialogue to be held at the highest level between Tunisia and France.

The Tunisian side expressed satisfaction over the France's announcement regarding granting Tunisia financial aid of 1.1 billion francs in 1995, allocated specifically to improve the quality of Tunisian industrial products and implement development projects. The two sides agreed to discuss means of implementing this decision during the meeting of the financial committee to be held within the next few weeks.

The two sides also agreed on a joint structure run by one Tunisian and one French official that would bring about new partnership in harmony with the development of the Tunisian economy and new prospects of partnership between Tunisia and the European Union.

Furthermore, and to give impetus to partnership projects, the two sides affirmed their joint determination to sensitize the French Chamber of Commerce and the National Council of Employers' Federation and members of the Tunisian and French Governments when necessary to the need to further focus attention on the prospects for development of the Tunisian economy.

Out of their eagerness to contribute to the efforts made toward the reconstruction operations in the Palestinian self-rule territories, the two sides decided to hold consultations to facilitate the implementation of tripartite projects and cooperation operations between Tunisia, France, and the Palestinian Authority. These consultations will be expanded to include prospects of tripartite cooperation in Africa.

The two sides affirmed their joint commitment to consolidate bilateral relations in accordance with the political will and plans of the presidents of the two countries, and to adopt a joint approach in future cooperation based on the traditional cordial and strategic relations existing between the two countries in all fields within the framework of a dynamic, comprehensive, and balanced rapprochement.

Bahrain

Meeting Between Amir, U.S. General Viewed

NC0510190895 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
27 Sep 95 p 16

[From the Central News Unit]

[FBIS Translated Text] The amir of Bahrain stressed the need for Bahrain to cooperate with the United States on military issues.

Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman al-Khalifah met General Binford Peay, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, and his accompanying delegation and expressed his pleasure at broadening bilateral ties. He stressed the need to strengthen cooperation in various fields, especially on military issues.

During this meeting the two sides exchanged views regarding developments in the Persian Gulf region, in the Arab countries, and on international issues.

Minister on 'Modernization Process,' GCC

JN0710114695 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1020 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 7 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah has said that recent incidents in Bahrain were aimed at destabilizing the entire Gulf region. He reiterated that the Bahraini regime is a progressive one, and that it constantly addresses developments and seeks to improve the country's state of affairs.

In a statement to the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH published today, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah added that recent incidents in Bahrain have nothing to do with development. They were aimed at pushing Bahrain backward and destabilizing security in Bahrain and the entire Gulf region. He indicated that an external element aims to destabilize the region.

The foreign minister said the continuing modernization process in Bahrain will forge ahead. He cited the recent speech delivered by his highness the Bahraini amir at the inauguration of the Consultative Council, in which he said that consultation, which involves the people, is at the heart of the Bahraini system of government. He indicated that this system must be promoted and must adapt to new developments.

With regard to border disputes among the countries in the region, the Bahraini minister of foreign affairs called for resolving these disputes within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and in an atmosphere of brotherliness and amity, which has always been the hallmark of Bahrain's course.

Regarding the issue of normalizing ties between GCC members and Israel, the Bahraini minister said that GCC members cannot proceed toward full normalization with Israel unless a breakthrough is seen on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of peace negotiations. He added: "Only full peace is conducive to full normalization, regardless of the fact that there is movement toward peace and normalization."

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah stressed that Iraq's unity is essential. He emphasized that no one should entertain the notion of dividing Iraq. "He maintained that an undivided Iraq is in the interest of Iraq and its people, and in the interest of stability in the entire region as well." The Bahraini minister said he hoped Iraq would make a cooperative and vigorous effort with its neighbors to build a better future for the countries of the region.

The Bahraini minister urged Iraq to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 986, which provides for limited Iraqi oil sales to finance medicine and food purchases.

As regards Bahraini-Iranian relations, the Bahraini minister underlined the principle of noninterference in domestic affairs, adding that Brahrain and Iran must work to promote their common interests.

Kuwait

Prime Minister on Need To Maintain Security

LD0910113995 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah Al- Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, has stressed that maintaining the security of the homeland and of the citizens is the most important issue which should receive all the attention.

At a news conference this morning he also said that the circumstances through which we are passing are critical and he invited the citizens to be cautious, vigilant, and alert and to cooperate in all fields and domains in order to spoil the opportunities for the ruler of the Iraqi regime to carry out his expansionist ambitions and his hostile objectives.

He urged the citizens to close ranks and to feel responsibility toward their homeland and to be more vigilant and alert. The prime minister stressed that the state of Kuwait and the other Gulf Cooperation Council states will not see any stability as long as the ruler of Iraq remains in power because his hostile and aggressive intentions are still alive.

He noted that the citizens bear special responsibilities and duties which they must shoulder. He explained that the state of Kuwait is connected by defense agreements with the permanent members of the Security Council and they are fully prepared to help Kuwait.

His highness indicated that the state of Kuwait has a healthy society whose motto has always been love, fraternity, understanding, and mutual cooperation and has Kuwait's interests at heart.

He pointed out, however, that his visits to the Diywaniyat [councils where Kuwaitis meet in the evening to discuss political issues] these days is a normal annual routine.

He reiterated that he will keep up this routine in a bid to understand problems facing the country and citizens and to help the government's management of local and foreign policies.

The heir apparent reiterated that the problem of prisoners [held in Iraq] is a problem for the country as a whole [words indistinct]. He reiterated, nonetheless, that solving the problem of prisoners is the responsibility of the government which has been working day in and day out to secure their release. He pointed out, however, that there are a number of Security Council resolutions on the release of prisoners and insisted that Iraq is bound by them.

Furthermore, he indicated that the government is in continuous touch with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international organizations to put an end to this tragedy.

His highness added that the direct contacts which had taken place with the Iraqi side on the common border between the two countries were aimed at easing the work of the committee [in charge of securing the release of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq].

However, after evening news bulletins, radio and television will be relaying a recording of the prime minister's press conference.

Defense Minister on Army, Regional Cooperation

95LH0236A Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 22 Jul 95 pp 4, 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah has asserted that military coordination between Kuwait and the sisterly Arab Gulf states continues through concerted contacts between the region's armies. He has also asserted that the results of these contacts will surface in the coming months in the form of tangible steps aimed to bolster joint cooperation in military areas.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QABAS, Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud has also emphasized that the plan to rebuild the Kuwaiti Army since the tyrannical Iraqi aggression is proceeding according to the established schedule, whether in connection with equipment or training, keeping in mind that special attention has been devoted to enhancing the army cadres' combat capabilities through continuous training programs.

The minister announced that the second phase of the border trench will be implemented in the near future, noting that the first phase has contributed greatly to stemming the acts of infiltration into the country across the northern border. Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud has welcomed young men applying to enroll in the military corps, whether in the Military Academy, which will accept enrollment this year according to its capabilities, or in other military schools for those who don't get the opportunity to enroll in the Military Academy. Al-Hamud also said that he will enact at the Defense Ministry the system of courses designated to prepare NCO's [noncommissioned officers] to rise to officers' ranks. Al-Hamud set up this system at the Interior Ministry when he was interior minister and the system will bear fruit when a group of officers graduate this year. Shaykh al-Hamud also announced that final touches are being currently applied to thoroughly studied amendments in the military conscription law so as to fill the gaps that have surfaced during years of application of this law. He also emphasized that he believes that conscription is a must for bolstering the Kuwaiti Army and a mainstay in the plan to rebuild the army.

Minister al-Hamud also expressed his confidence in and appreciation for the Defense Ministry leaders and for the efforts they exert to implement the drafted plan.

The interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah was opened with a question on the policy of enrollment at the academy and the other army schools. He answered, "enrollment at the Military Academy is subject to specific prerequisites to which the applicant must adhere in implementing the academy's bylaws. Here, I wish to ask those who are not fortunate enough to enroll at the academy as cadets this year to apply to other military schools. A total of 899 young men have applied to enroll at the academy whereas the number that can be enrolled this year according to the academy's capabilities is only 200 students. Therefore, I hope that those who don't get the opportunity to enroll at the academy will apply to other schools, including the NCO's School and the Rookies [al-aghrar] School, because we need Kuwait's sons to be in all the positions which accomplish for one the honor to defend the country's soil and to safeguard its honor."

The minister added, "Speaking of NCO's and of high school graduates who have not accumulated a high enough grade average to qualify them to enroll at the Military Academy or who have not had the opportunity to enroll in this academy for any other reason, I am eager to point out that these students can apply for NCO's courses, in which they will have enrollment priority. Second, with industrious work and by keeping up with developments in the army's current weapons after graduation, NCO's will have the opportunity to be sent on scholarships abroad. If they pass such courses and if they work hard to merit promotion, then they will be enrolled in the officers course, as we have done at the Interior Ministry. I have established this system at the Interior Ministry for NCO's and staff sergeants, some of whom will graduate as officers this year. It is true that some of them earned their high school certificate after enrolling in the police corps. However, they were rewarded for their work throughout the years they spent in their jobs and they have now become officers with the rank of lieutenant. I hope that they will rise to higher ranks in coming years. This is what I will do in the army. Rather, it is what I am doing now. However, such a thing is not accomplished overnight and it needs some time. What is important is that we lay down the foundations at the Defense Ministry, as we have laid them down at the Interior Ministry. Accomplishment comes into existence through foundations."

Responding to a question on the degree of military coordination achieved by the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states, the minister said, "This coordination is proceeding according to everybody's wishes. There are concerted contacts between the region's armies. Several issues have been examined, and the results will emerge throughout the region's countries in the coming months, whether in connection with our unity as a single army or with our joint military exercises and training."

Rebuilding Armed Forces

Regarding the plan to rebuild the armed forces, the defense minister said, "The early shipments of the equipment we requested have begun to be delivered. The cadres we sent abroad to train on this equipment have begun to produce the fruits of their training and they have actually begun work to train other cadres to take control of this equipment. The issue requires time, effort, and work."

The minister added, "I wish to take this opportunity to thank all brothers working at the Defense Ministry for the work they do. I am personally aware of their sincere effort, of their devotion in the performance of their work, and of the effort they exert to rebuild the army. We know that the task is not easy and we are aware of its difficulty. However, I thank them profoundly for the effort that they are making and that they will make in the future, God willing, to manifest the strength of our army as an entity defending the country and its capabilities. I beseech God, may He be praised and exalted, to give them success in their performance of this national role, which we all appreciate.

Border Trench

In response to a question on the phases for completion of the border trench and on the results emanating from its construction, Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud said, "I imagine that the border trench in the northern part of the country has helped greatly to stem border infiltration activities. We should not forget the vigilance of our brothers who work in al-Sur Brigade, which is deployed at the front and at all our land borders. Neither should we forget our brothers who work in the Interior Ministry's Border Guard. These people are performing great work, and we appreciate this work and effort and thank them for performing the role entrusted to them in the best manner possible."

The minister added, "A plan and a program have been drawn up to bolster our border defense. The first phase of the plan has been carried out, leaving the other phases to be implemented. We are now in the process of studying the second phase which, God willing, will be implemented in the near future."

Weapon Purchases

Regarding weapons purchase regulations which he established upon assuming the Defense Ministry portfolio, Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud said: "I have formed two bid committees at the ministry: One is a higher committee and the other is a special committee. Ministerial decrees have been issued on these committees. The higher committees is chaired by the brother chief of staff. It includes the brother ministry undersecretary and a number of ministry and Chief of Staff officers as members. This is the committee that considers army requests and needs. I have formed it by a decree which takes into account the fact that the army is in a very sensitive position that is different from the position of any other government agency. There are numerous issues that we cannot disclose. My great confidence in the chief of staff, the ministry undersecretary, and the other officials is what has motivated me to form this committee so all requests will be made through it. This makes me feel personally comfortable with all that is done to prevent rumors, allegations, and revilement. Moreover, this step is good for the work itself and good for performance, which is of primary importance to me."

Pilot Training Institute

Answering a question on training Kuwaiti pilots to protect Kuwait's air space, the defense minister said, "To strengthen the Air Force and to get more Kuwaiti pilots is at the top of our concerns. We send trainees to high-level courses in the United States and Britain. We will also establish an aviation institute here in Kuwait. We have training aircraft. This institute will come under the control of the chief of state, through the Air Force. The institute's task will be to produce pilots who pass its initial training courses. The task will then be to send its graduates to attend specialized courses abroad. What I mean is that this institute will be a nucleus for the future, especially since training aircraft are available, as I have already said. I cannot give a definite date as to when this project, which existed previously and which was destroyed during the Iraqi aggression, will be completed. We are now trying to revive it. Instead of sending our sons abroad to start their training from scratch, we will send trained pilots who have completed the initial phases so they will become specialized in this area."

Training Our Cadres Is Top Priority

Regarding the military training plan of the army's various branches, the defense minister said, "Our interest in training covers all branches. We believe in the rule that we must spend on training one-half of what we spend on equipment. Such training is proportionate, not just in the areas of army and defense, but also in all other areas of the government."

He added, "For example, if the Defense Ministry purchases the world's most sophisticated military equipment, then it must be in need of youth who can manage this equipment and deal with it. How can such young men be gotten without adequate preparation and training and without continuing such training? We put such training at the top of our priorities. Often, this is what motivates us to pay very dearly for the training. An individual in charge of equipment in his trust must be at the peak of capability and of constant readiness."

The minister went on to add, "For this reason, our special exercises continue throughout the year for all the forces in accordance with an established program. This program is implemented in an organized manner by all of the Defense Ministry's weapons, first, to train the men concerned and, second, so these men can be fully prepared for any eventuality, God forbid."

Compulsory Conscription

Answering a question on whether he is satisfied with the compulsory conscription after years of the implementation of this system, Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud said, "From our experience with compulsory conscription, we have found that there are deficiencies in some aspects and we have felt that it is necessary to evaluate other aspects. Because this experience is the first of its kind for us, we are examining it. The brothers in charge of compulsory conscription are currently applying the final touches to amendments to be introduced to some conscription law articles or are adding new articles that are a must, according to our vision of the experience. The Military Council will examine these amendments prior to submitting a complete bill to the Council of Ministers. I hope that my brothers the ministers will make their observations on the bill and that it will be then referred to the National Assembly."

Shaykh al-Hamud added, "We believe that compulsory conscription is a indispensable must for strengthening the Kuwaiti Army. Rather, it is a mainstay on which we are founding our plan to rebuild the Kuwaiti Army."

Dear Brothers

The minister was asked: When will you make your first visit as defense minister to the region's countries and with which country will you start this visit?

He answered, "I wish to say that these countries are sisterly countries and that my colleagues their defense ministers are brothers who are dear to all of us. I had the honor of meeting these colleagues at a conference that was held in Riyadh in November 1994. I had the honor to attend that meeting and I hope that God will let me live to visit them soon. These visits will be, as I have already said, visits to brothers and they can take place at any time. The Gulf house is open and it encompasses all of us."

Damascus Declaration

As to new military cooperation developments based on the Damascus Declaration, the minister said, "Regarding the military cooperation aspect of the Damascus Declaration, perhaps you are aware of the meeting held recently in Bahrain by the foreign ministers of the signatories of this declaration. All issues were brought up for discussion at that meeting. We in Kuwait are a part of this declaration and we adhere to all its resolutions and aspirations."

We Do Not Accept Civilians

Regarding his latest decree, Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud said that it is the decree not to employ civilians at the Defense Ministry and to confine employment there to the military. This decree has already gone into force. He added, "We welcome brother citizens who wish to be employed as military, not civilian, personnel in the army."

Foreign Visits Next Fall

Concluding the interview, the minister announced in response to another question on invitations addressed to him for foreign visits that "as a result of the invitations I have received, I will make several visits next fall. The dates for these visits are under consideration now. The visits will include several sisterly and friendly countries."

Former Prisoner Cites Torture in Iraqi Prison

LD0810180695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1641 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 October — The Kuwaiti authorities have received the Kuwaiti national Majid al-Mutayri here today after he served his prison sentence in Iraq for alleged illegally entering the Iraqi territories.

A communique released by the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry said the release occured "through intensive efforts by the Kuwaiti Government, the United Nations, and the International Red Cross Commission."

In a statement to KUNA after being handed over to the Kuwaiti authorities, al-Mutayri said "I am happy to return to my country." He noted that he had been physically tortured at the hands of the Iraqi authorities.

Al-Mutayri became lost near the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders and inadvertently entered Iraqi territory on 9 February 1994. The Iraqi authorities are detaining a number of Kuwaiti nationals accused of illegally entering Iraqi territories. [passage omitted]

Oman

Government To Buy 'Modern' Anti-Aircraft Guns

JN0810185595 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0924 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 8 Oct (WAKH) — Sultanate of Oman and the Swiss Oerlikon Company have signed an agreement under which the Omani Army will be equipped with modern anti-aircraft guns.

The OMANI NEW AGENCY cited JUND 'UMAN magazine as saying that the agreement — which was signed on 3 October by Fahar Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, and the director of the Swiss Oerlikon Company — provides for supplying Oman with modern anti-aircraft guns, the latest in military technology.

The news agency said it is hoped these guns will enter service in November within Oman's celebrations of its 25th National Day anniversary.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Discusses Electric Power, Bosnia Peace

LD0910200395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1645 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 9 Oct — King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, in a comprehensive statement dealing with international events and the latest developments in the international arena, explained the policies, contacts, and stands of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom on a number of important issues and international developments, pointing out the efforts of the Kingdom aimed at strengthening peace and security at regional, Arab, and international level.

On another level, the custodian of the two holy mosques affirmed that the electricity sector in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom occupied an important and prominent position in the affairs of the state, a matter that would enable the Kingdom to make electric power universally available in all the regions as soon as possible.

The custodian of the two holy mosques said: "Electricity is a major gateway to all sectors of the economy and a supporting element to production, and to the standard of living and development of the quality of life of Saudi society."

The exalted king affirmed that electric power is considered a basic source of social and economic development and it is a characteristic of the industrially advanced states. He said that electric energy is the least polluting element and the most versatile in use. He added that it is also the easiest to move and distribute. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques requested those who are engaged in the production of electricity to continue their customary efforts and develop the generation of electric power to keep pace with the growth in population and to take precautionary and alternative measures for meeting power cuts." [quotation marks as received] [passage omitted]

Information Minister [Fa'ud Bin-'Abd-al-Salam Bin Muhammad] al- Farisi said in reference to Arab affairs that the custodian of the two holy mosques stressed the necessity of continuing the peace process in the Middle East on all tracks in a manner that secures all the rights of the Arab states and their peoples. Regarding the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the king expressed his hope for the realization of a cease-fire agreement for all the Bosnian territories, which has been approved by all sides to the conflict in a manner that realizes the aims and aspirations of the Bosnian Muslim people. The king stressed that the Kingdom stands by the brothers there. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Resigns; New Minister Appointed

LD0910193395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1815 GMT 9 Oct 95

["Text" of royal order issued "today"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] After perusing the Council of Ministers Act issued under Royal Order Number A/13, dated 3 Rabi' al-Awwal 1412 AH [13 September 1991], we have issued the following order:

1. Accepting the resignation of Dr. Sulayman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Salim, minister of finance and national economy, due to health reasons.
2. The deputy prime minister is entrusted with carrying out our order.

The royal order was issued under Number 6785, dated 15 Jamad al- Awwal 1416 [9 October], entrusting His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, to carry out the duties of the minister of finance and national economy in addition to his own duties.

Paper Criticizes Saddam, Urges Him To Quit

JN0810181395 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
6 Oct 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Saddam, A Gambling Dictator"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi leadership seems to have failed to learn any lesson from its relations with the UN Security Council. It is still making mistakes by rejecting a Security Council deal for sponsored limited oil sales to meet the Iraqi people's basic needs.

Each day proves that Saddam Husayn lacks sensibility and political vision. He makes his decisions as a result of his wrong ideas about independent Iraqi decisionmaking. The Iraqi regime is foolishly making a major mistake by rejecting the oil sales deal. But the Iraqi people, who are suffering from oppression and dictatorship, are the only party paying a high price for that rejection.

Iraq is still wrongly gambling that certain future political developments may take place in its favor, as if experience had failed to teach the Iraqi leadership that the world's adherence to Iraq-related Security Council resolutions is principled and will not be affected by tactical political developments and calculations. Therefore, the Iraqi leadership is trying to prolong the suffering of its people in order to prolong the life of the very regime, which is about to collapse because of its failure to rule, live in harmony with its neighboring countries, or absorb the new world changes.

The strange issue that we should notice is this comic play on Saddam Husayn's presidential elections—a play that is distracting the attention of the Iraqi people from what is going on outside Iraq's walls, namely, the world's rejection of the regime and its tricks with the Security Council. No wise political leadership in the world would use the future of its people and their wealth for the benefit of one person. Saddam has lost every human sensibility. Evil grips him, and he is suffering psychological disorders, including a superiority complex.

Iraq's refusal to sell a limited quantity of its oil means more suffering of the Iraqi people and non-respect for their feelings and their wealth, which Saddam is squandering on his palaces and his bad entourage. The regime in Baghdad may realize too late the huge price it has paid for its illusions, and only then will it reach ground zero and have no choice but to quit or to wager on large-scale political chaos between different factions in Iraq. We do not want to see this happen to the Iraqi people or to Iraq as a unified social entity.

The Iraqi regime has become so self-centered that it no longer distinguishes the world's determination to comply with Security Council resolutions from a political maneuver that would have been accepted only if those in charge in Iraq had been sane people and had sought the salvation of their people and the unity of their society. Iraq is required to implement Security Council resolutions so that it can return to the international community. Otherwise, the Iraqi regime should quit in the best interest of the international community and the Iraqi people, who are suffering from a tragic situation as a result of the insistence of a dictator on remaining a brandished sword against his people.

Yemen

Sanaa Announces Recognition of Palestinian Passport

JN0910211295 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1455 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 9 Oct (WAKH)—It was announced in Sanaa today that Yemen has recognized the Palestinian passport issued in April by the Palestinian self-rule authority for Palestinians residing in the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho. They are estimated at one million people.

Among the Arab and foreign states that have thus far recognized this document are Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel, the United States, and the EU states.

'Aziz Sends Letter to Security Council, IAEA

JN0610215795 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz asserted that Iraq has fully and responsibly cooperated with the UN Security Council Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [words indistinct]

In a letter delivered to Security Council President Ibrahim Gambari by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Tariq 'Aziz said [passage indistinct] has effectively and fully cooperated with [words indistinct] in accordance with Resolutions 687 and 715. The following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency Ibrahim Gambari, president of the UN Security Council, New York. Greetings: In light of the recent visit Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the UN Special Commission, paid to Baghdad, in light of the talks we held with him, and in light of the biannual report he will submit to the Security Council on 11 October 1995, I would like, on behalf of Iraq's Government, to assert the following to Your Excellency and to the members of the Security Council:

1. Iraq's Government and the Iraqi authorities involved in working with the Special Commission and the IAEA have cooperated with the commission and the agency positively and responsibly. As a result, large [word indistinct] were implemented to achieve the goals [words indistinct] and fully cooperated with them to enable them to carry out their duties in accordance with the two said resolutions.

2. [Words indistinct] that the Iraqi authorities have handed to the chairman of the Special Commission and the [word indistinct] IAEA on 19 August 1995 and afterwards information on previous programs, which was deliberately concealed by the former official in charge of these programs. [Words indistinct] the visit by the inspection teams of the Special Commission and the IAEA and during the recent visit paid by the executive chairman of the Special Commission, information and recently-found additional documents on the subject were presented and that the competent Iraqi authorities will continue their policy that is in line with the contents of the above-mentioned point 1.

3. On behalf of the Government of Iraq, I would like to stress that this information and these documents, which were delivered after 17 August 1995, despite all that was contained in them, do not change the established fact — namely, that since the end of 1991, Iraq has not been in possession of any weapons or parts of weapons of those which were banned in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 687, and that Iraq has not carried out any activity in violation of its obligations in accordance with Resolution 687.

Iraq has cooperated fully and participated effectively in establishing the monitoring system. The UN Special Commission and the IAEA have confirmed this in their reports which were submitted to the Council. Based on this fact, which I am officially confirming to you, I am confident that Iraq has fulfilled its essential obligations in accordance with Resolution 687, as well as its obligations in accordance with Resolution 715. We hope that the council will take this fact into consideration during its next deliberations.

4. Some press circles have recently circulated claims on the existence of weapons or chemical materials in the ships which sank in Shatt al-'Arab and the Iraqi coasts on the Gulf as a result of the military operation in January and February 1991. I emphasize that the Iraqi ships which sank during that period did not carry any weapons or chemical materials, and that we are ready, if the United States so wishes, to rescue the sunken ships to verify their load, and we are ready to provide the necessary facilities. Please accept our best regards and appreciation.

[Signed] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz

[Dated] Baghdad, 5 October 1995

Foreign Minister Delivers Speech to UN Assembly

JN0610142895 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Oct 6, INA—Iraq has demanded the U.N Security Council members not to follow up unjust accusations against Iraq, and to wait before making their conclusions according to the results reached by the U.N Special Committee.

Speaking during the 50th session of the U.N General Assembly on Thursday [5 October], Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf stressed that Iraq has no longer any banned weapons or equipment or materials which represent the essential objective of the Resolution 687.

He expressed his country's keenness on continuing fruitful cooperation with the ad hoc commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to close the weapons file in accordance with what the relative U.N resolutions stipulate.

The foreign minister called on the United Nations to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq saying that the reasons for which the sanctions were imposed have warded off now and consequently, the sanctions on the Iraqi people should be lifted.

He tackled the relation between Iraq and the U.N Special Commission and Iraq's fulfillment of the U.N resolutions in this regard.

The Iraqi minister pointed out to Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and its territorial integrity, political independence, and the international borders. He mentioned as well Iraq's cooperation with the U.N representatives to return the Kuwaiti properties and settle other issues in this regard.

Mr. al-Sahhaf attracted the attention of international community to the delay being made in implementing the reciprocal obligations U.N Security Council should fulfill towards Iraq.

Iraq has carried out all the procedures required by the U.N Security Council despite the hard conditions of the embargo imposed on the country, the minister said.

"The big power which is leading the aggressive campaign against Iraq is the United States of America, the state which should be demanded to prove its peaceful intentions and credibility and to stop doing acts of aggression and interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and intensifying tension in the region.

He reaffirmed what President Saddam Husayn had stressed that accusing Iraq of non-credibility in its relation with the U.N Special Commission is bogus charges.

"We do not demand more than the legal and sound implementation of the U.N resolutions in accordance with the principles of U.N charter not with the intentions and aims of a certain state", the foreign minister stressed.

Addressing Washington, the minister said "we say to the United States of America that dialogue is the only solution by which we can achieve the interests according to justice and balance".

Official Criticizes U.S., UK, UN Envoys

JN0610143995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1257 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 6 Oct (INA)—Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, yesterday evening strongly attacked the United States and the United Kingdom and their representatives at the United Nations.

This came in Dr. al-Qaysi's reply at the UN General Assembly to the comments by U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright and British Ambassador John Weston, both of whom also spoke at the UN General Assembly, on the speech Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf delivered accusing the United States of lacking credibility.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary said Iraq does not wish to be drawn into berations with the U.S. representative who was supported by the British envoy although, in his speech, the Iraqi foreign minister did not mention the country of the envoy who, in spite of this, chose to be the lackey of the United States.

Dr. al-Qaysi said these two countries' stands do not represent that of the Security Council. He added: Unfortunately, they chose to speak on behalf of the UN Security Council, ignoring many facts, and saying Iraq lacks credibility.

Addressing the UN General Assembly members, the Iraqi foreign ministry under secretary said: Let us discuss the question of credibility. What is credibility? Credibility is an ethical value. That's why everybody should abide by it.

Al-Qaysi said: You heard both representatives say Resolution 986 was passed as a just and flexible mechanism to offer the necessary humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people within the framework of the sanctions. This alone is an admission that the sanctions imposed on Iraq did not take into account the Iraqi population's humanitarian needs.

Dr. al-Qaysi added: Where is this credibility when one says that the resolution was passed, as the U.S. ambassador explained, simply to sell oil to feed the Iraqi people? Has Albright forgotten the political provisions that were introduced into this resolution to implement plans to partition Iraq and to interfere in its domestic affairs? Where is the credibility they speak about? Let us speak of credibility once again with respect to the claims that information has been withheld. In spite of what Albright has said, we gave everything to Ambassador Ekeus.

Al-Qaysi added: Albright also talked about the overwhelming program in the nuclear field. As the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] said, this program was no more than an insignificant report. Where is credibility? They are inducing fears about the previous programs, despite the fact that all information about these programs was presented to the UN Special Commission and the IAEA. If they are really interested in credibility, why don't they wait for these two responsible organizations to present their conclusions to the Security Council during the available period of time? The Security Council will thus make a correct assessment.

He said: Why have they been clamoring against Iraq since August? Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state, is touring the capitals to discuss the situation in Iraq. Some states were tempted to support them. Moreover, lies were fabricated about Iraqi troop concentrations ready to attack the neighboring states. Is this credibility?

Al-Qaysi added: Mrs. Albright said there was no ambiguity in Resolution 687 whether in 1991 or now. What party is causing ambiguity about Resolution 687? Does not the official U.S. position say that Articles 22 and 21 of this resolution do not mean anything?

He continued: What party is causing ambiguity about this resolution? Certainly, it is not Iraq; it is the United States. In all our contacts with the Security Council member states and others, it was constantly explained to us that if the U.S. position changes, it will be possible for us to move.

Al-Qaysi said that the current U.S. position is: There is no room to implement Article 22 even if the UN Special Commission presents a positive conclusion designed to implement this article. Why is that? It is because there will be an election year in the United States. Whom does Mrs. Albright believe is not aware of this fact in this hall? Everyone is aware of this fact. Is this credibility? Or is it an ethical defect in interpreting the provisions of the Security Council and the UN Charter?

He added: We called for dialogue, and we are reiterating our call for dialogue. However, you have just heard Mrs. Albright and the UK representative who said they do not want dialogue. In conclusion, let me inform the UK representative that he should know that the whole Arab Homeland is convinced that his country, Britain, is the cause of all ailments from which the Arab Homeland is suffering.

Al-Qaysi said: In conclusion, let me tell Mrs. Albright that there is a vast distance between us and her, and that we are looking forward to the future, but she continues to wail over the colonialist past.

In her speech yesterday evening, Albright said she was shocked by what she heard from the Iraqi foreign minister. She reiterated the fabricated lies against Iraq. The U.S. mission held telephone contacts with journalists at the United Nations to prompt them to listen to Albright's speech.

Paper Urges UN To Take 'Positive Position'

JN0910174195 Baghdad INA in English
1450 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 9, INA— An Iraqi paper has called upon the U.N Security Council to take into consideration Iraq's full cooperation with the U.N Special Commission and the obligations the country has fulfilled till now during its deliberations within this month.

In an editorial on Monday [9 October], AL-THAWRAH newspaper, mouthpiece of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said U.N Security Council should adopt a positive position that would be in conformity with Iraq's true response.

The paper described as very important document the letter sent on Friday by Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz to the U.N Security Council president. The letter confirms once again Iraq's clear-cut attitude, which proves its desire to continue cooperation with the ad hoc committee and the International Atomic Energy Agency, it added.

"What is important in this letter is that it came at a time that Chairman of the U.N Special Commission Rolf Ekeus was about to present his semi annual report to the Security Council, and also following a visit made by Ekeus to Iraq where he met some Iraqi senior officials", the paper said.

Mr 'Aziz's letter included a reply expressing Iraq's stress on the importance of enhancing cooperation with the U.N Security Council.

Saddam's Measures for 'Bloodless Coup' Discussed

JN0810145795 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
8 Oct 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Fu'ad Husayn in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi capital has been witnessing what has been described as last-minute preparations for a bloodless coup led by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn himself under the slogan: A shift from the stage of revolutionary legitimacy to the stage of constitutional legitimacy. This shift is expected to be accomplished within six months of the date of referendum on the Presidency. Ranking political sources, who asked to remain anonymous, said this referendum constitutes the first step, which will be followed by other measures of the bloodless coup.

Leading these indepth democratic changes, led by President Saddam Husayn himself, is the reinforcement of the role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in state institutions and in society as the first step toward uprooting the phenomenon of the centralization of power. This phenomenon has been monopolized by individuals who exploited the extraordinary circumstances in Iraq during the two Gulf wars and who benefited from decentralization and kinship.

Within this framework, President Saddam Husayn met with the veterans organization, which consists of Iraqi Ba'thists and nationalists who played an important and prominent role in Iraq's political life. This would pave the way for bringing a number of them back to political life and to leading positions in the party and government.

This step will be followed by successive practical measures to institutionalize the state within six months. These measures are represented by the following: Holding the referendum on the Presidency; dissolving the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; forming a new government; holding legislative elections for a new parliament; convening a national conference; issuing laws for pluralism, formation of parties, and freedom of press; endorsing a new constitution through a plebiscite; and holding new municipal and union elections. The measures are also represented by activating the Autonomous Region Law, which was issued in 1974, and by implementing the agreement concluded between the Ba'th Party and the leaders of the Kurdish parties in April 1991. This agreement has laid down a new and developed formula for the Iraqi Kurds' self-rule to create a situation in Kurdistan which will end the repercussions and extraordinary measures resulting from both Gulf wars. The agreement also considers the Autonomous Region a legal person that enjoys self-rule within the framework of Iraq's unity and defines the bodies of the self-rule, such as the Legislative Council — method of electing its members, its competence, and its powers — and the Executive Council — its general secretariat, its formation, its tasks, its powers, and its relationship with the central government.

The political sources noted that following the referendum on the Presidency, a plebiscite will be held on a new constitution which provides for electing the head of state through direct secret balloting. It also stipulates that the people are the source of power and legitimacy and that the people exercise their powers through their elected representatives and that the political regime in Iraq is based on democracy and socialism in accordance with the opinion of the people and their interests to guarantee social justice and economic freedom, which also prevents exploitation.

The new constitution underscores equal opportunities for all citizens. It also guarantees freedom of expression and press, establishing political parties and unions, freedom of religions, and independence of judiciary.

The ranking political sources disclosed that preparations are underway for holding a national conference to discuss the future of Iraq. All political, religious, and ethnic sectors of the Iraqi society will participate in this conference whose decisions and recommendations will be the framework for enacting laws.

The sources added that the RCC, which has been the ruling council in Iraq since 1968, will then be dissolved and be replaced by a new government which will consist, for the first time, of technocrats and well-known non-Ba'thist nationalists to take over the tasks of the RCC.

The next stage of these democratic changes will be the electing of a new 250-man National Assembly, parliament, to enact laws and monitor the work of ministries. The members of this assembly will be elected through direct, secret balloting. Also, a 50-man shura [consultative] council will be set up. The president appoints 25 members of this council and the other 25 members will be elected in a free and direct balloting. The shura council will be the highest body from which the president seeks advice on important political, economic, legal, social, and cultural issues.

Regarding the Parties Law, some improvements will be introduced to the Political Parties Law issued by the RCC on 1 September 1991. The number of the founding members will be reduced and some political and intellectual conditions, which exist in the RCC law, will be canceled. One of the features of the new parties law is the inadmissibility of founding a political party based on apostasy, sectarianism, factionalism, and non-Arabism. The law also gives every licensed political party the right to issue a newspaper and a magazine and bans political and party activities in the Armed Forces and security organs, except those by the Ba'th Party. The law considers the government's financial contribution one of the licensed parties' revenues, and defines the number of party founders by 100 or 150 persons.

Observers in Iraq do not expect parties to be formed in Iraq soon. However, some nationalists and Marxists are holding consultations to form one or more parties. Among these figures are Dr. Yusuf Hamdan, a Marxist; Dr. Wamid 'Umar Nazmi, from the democratic, national line; Majid 'Abd-al-Rida, a Marxist; and Subhi 'Abd-al-Hamid, from the Nasirite current, in addition to Naji Talib and Makram al-Talbani, who seek to form Kurdish parties.

Tariq 'Aziz held intensive and expanded meetings with these figures during the past month to hold consultations regarding the issue of party pluralism and ways to develop the process.

The political sources noted that work is under way to prepare a new press law which will allow individuals, companies, and groups, in addition to parties, to issue papers and magazines. Tariq 'Aziz, who was charged with preparing a modern law, is preparing the provisions of this law together with the Journalists Association.

Husayn Kamil Discusses Reasons for Defecting

BR0610150195 Brussels LE VIF/L'EXPRESS in French 6 Oct 95 pp 69, 70, 73

[Report on interview with General Husayn Kamil Hasan by Jeanne Assouly and Chritian Hoche in Amman; date not given; "Why I Fled Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] General Husayn Kamil Hasan, 37, who defected to Jordan on 8 August with his wife and children, is the son-in-law of Baghdad's ruler. He forged his whole career under Saddam's shadow and enjoyed every privilege. [passage omitted]

It was in a royal residence, closely guarded by two paratroop regiments, that Iraq's most famous renegade spoke to the special correspondents from LE VIF/L'EXPRESS.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] Why did you decide to flee to Jordan?

[Kamil] Many people believed that I took this dramatic decision because I feared for my life and that of my family. It is not true! I was never troubled. Two days before I left I met with President Saddam Husayn and had a long conversation with him. He did not suspect anything. No, the reason for my decision is that the present regime has been conducting a suicidal policy which is causing further suffering for the Iraqi people. They can take no more, they are dying of hunger. Do you know that oil and flour cannot be found anywhere in Baghdad? Or that 4 million of the country's 18 million people are living in a precarious situation? Any opposition — however insignificant it may be — is immediately repressed. Often with murders. It is impossible to make the regime bend in any way. Of course the UN sanctions on Iraq have hit the country hard. But it would have been possible to alleviate them by being correct in our dealings with the UN special commission. I have clearly stated my disagreement with this policy on a number of occasions. But to no avail. Unable to open up, powerless to keep the country together, isolated within the Arab world, Saddam Husayn's only solution is to press on blindly. Given these conditions, I considered I would be of more service to my people outside the country than inside it. Therefore, on 29 July I told my wife and brother of my decision. They understood me perfectly. We left Baghdad by road in the greatest secrecy at nightfall on 7 August and arrived in Jordan at 3:30 am. King Husayn, who met me a little later, believed I had come with a message from Saddam Husayn. I then simply explained the situation to him....

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] Did your defection prompt reprisals in Iraq?

[Kamil] Naturally. My young brother, who stayed in Baghdad, was thrown into prison, without knowing why because he knew nothing about my intentions. All his property has been confiscated. I have also learned that a certain number of senior officers who were close to me have been arrested and tortured. Cousins and friends, such as Former Oil Minister Habubi, are under arrest. And the raid is probably not over yet.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] But why did you wait so long before denouncing a regime which you widely supported?

[Kamil] I told you, it is vain to believe that Saddam Husayn will change his policy and promote democracy. To the contrary! He feels threatened and will step up the repression. But, like many others, I believed that the Gulf war in 1991 would teach him a lesson. And that the regime would draw the necessary conclusions. Also, Iraq was in ruins. I therefore set myself the task of helping to rebuild the country as defense and industry minister. I swear that it is thanks to me that electricity was restored so quickly, that the communications and the public services are working. All the bridges have been repaired and the roads rebuilt. Two dams, among which one on the Euphrates River, are being built. That could not have been done without my assistance and people know this. If I had left Iraq earlier, my country would be in an even more disastrous state today. My contribution to this recovery has not been negligible.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] Did you also participate in restoring the Iraqi armed forces?

[Kamil] Fully. This was my job. What I can tell you is that the Army no longer needs to be at the same level, in terms of men or equipment, as before the Gulf war. We have other priorities. But if Iraq were attacked, the country would quickly be able to deploy a very large army.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] Potentially, are the conventional weapons the same as in 1990?

[Kamil] Military secret.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] You have claimed that Iraq tried to build a nuclear bomb following the invasion of Kuwait?

[Kamil] It is true. In January 1991, at the beginning of the war, we were not far from carrying out our first tests, using uranium from our two research Russian and French reactors. But the bombing of the nuclear installations by the western powers put an end to this attempt, thank God. Looking back makes me shudder: Can you imagine this hated regime possessing an atomic bomb?

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] It appears that Iran is working on a secret weapons program, with nuclear weapons in particular. Does that worry you?

[Kamil] Does it not worry you? Iran has never made any secret of its desire to dominate the Islamic world. In addition to its conventional weapons, it is actively working to produce weapons of mass destruction. It already has long—range missiles, biological weapons, and chemical weapons which it used against Iraq in the first Gulf war. No other country in the region has such an arsenal. But that is not the most worrying. With the help of China and Russia, Tehran is trying to develop an atomic bomb. Our intelligence services report that it could be operational within a year or two. If the international community does not put a stop to its ambitions we are heading for an frightening catastrophe. As far as I know, only Israel has sounded the alarm.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] Precisely. You recently stated that Israel had had contacts with Iraq. What contacts?

[Kamil] Yes, it is true. The first one took place in 1978. Without success. The second meeting was in 1987, through the intermediary of Egypt. Where? I cannot tell you. Between 1988 and 1990 the contacts were interrupted. They resumed in 1991 through Barzan al-Takriti, the half-brother of President Saddam Husayn and UN ambassador in Geneva. Israel and Iraq have of course denied these secret meetings. What is interesting is that Baghdad, which has constantly condemned the Middle East peace process, has established contacts with its enemy.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] Who were the interlocutors on the Israeli side?

[Kamil] Ask the Israelis!

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] Did Saddam Husayn really plan a second invasion of Kuwait as you said?

[Kamil] I confirm this. Under the pretext of military maneuvers, the high command amassed units of the Army and Republican Guard in October 1994. Everything was ready for a new invasion of Kuwait, extending to eastern Saudi Arabia. It was absolute madness, but Saddam Husayn was convinced that after the election of Bill Clinton and other changes in the world, this time he would emerge victorious from "the Mother of all battles." The aim was to very quickly neutralize the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, stop the government from leaving the country and, above all, control the oil wells in Kuwait and part of Saudi Arabia. Baghdad then believed it could negotiate from a position of strength. You know the rest.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] Some observers see you as the figure who can unite the opposition to the Iraqi regime. What do you think?

[Kamil] It is of course not up to me to say. I am first of all a patriot seeking democracy in Iraq. But it is certain that we have solid support inside the country, in particular among many Armed Forces. We also have excellent contacts with the opposition outside the country.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] An opposition which is threatening to bring you before an international tribunal for "crimes against humanity?"

[Kamil] (Laughs) Yes, I am aware of this. This is not very sensible on the part of these opponents, some of whom are being manipulated by Iran. But this is not important. What is important, I repeat, is to save the country. Our program is clear: To introduce a democratic regime as quickly as possible which respects human rights, pluralism, and individual, ethnic and religious freedom. It is vitally important for power to be in the hands of the people and not a clan or family.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] How do you intend to save Iraq?

[Kamil] We know the strong and the weak points of this regime. We must be precise in our actions. That is why all our efforts are concentrated on these weaknesses to strike the fatal blow at the appropriate time. And to avoid, if it is not too late, civil war.

[LE VIF/L'EXPRESS] Could the Army take over power?

[Kamil] In a certain way, it is in power already. Technically, a military takeover is very difficult. If it succeeded it would be the death of the Iraqi people. Civil war would spread from the north to the south of the country. That is what I want to avoid.

Paper Says Referendum Refutes 'U.S. Accusations'

*JN0810184795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0840 GMT 8 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL- THAWRAH has said that the popular referendum on presidency, which will be held on 15 October, represents a qualitative and important stride on the path of democracy in Iraq.

In an article today, the newspaper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: The referendum comes as a reply to all colonialist and reactionary fabrications which raise the slogans of democracy and freedom in a deceptive and dubious manner.

AL-THAWRAH continues: The popular referendum is an affirmation to anyone who wishes to learn about the strong ties between the people and the leadership. It is also a proof of the mutual trust between the people and their leadership despite the conspiracy against Iraq and the unjust blockade imposed on it. The decision to hold this referendum is considered one of the great defiant decisions made by Iraq.

The paper points out that the popular referendum will also add to the achievements and practices the Iraqis have made along their democratic and revolutionary path throughout the long years of their glorious history. Moreover, the referendum is a statement by the Iraqi people, who are emphasizing their genuine and constant rallying around their national leadership.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the referendum asserts that Iraq is a democratic country. While refuting the U.S. accusations against Iraq, the referendum will also deal a blow to all rancorous and discordant voices which falsely claim protection of the democratic concepts. In fact, such concepts are far from the minds of these people.

Referendum Workers Cast Votes 9 Oct

JN0910210695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The processes of popular referendum on the president of the Republic post began in Baghdad and the governorates today for the citizens entrusted with the task of supervising the voting process, whose work necessitates that they stay at their work centers on the day of referendum scheduled to be held on 15 October.

A number of referendum centers in Baghdad and the governorates were defined. In accordance with official documentation supporting their assignment to referendum-related work, a number of employees were received in these centers and cast their votes, each according to their geographical area. This process will continue until the end of duty hours on 12 October. Sixteen areas were designated for the referendum in Baghdad Governorate, including the areas of al-Mada'in and al-Mahmudiyah. Other areas were named in the governorates and the districts based on the density of population and the geographical area.

The referendum processes include the judges entrusted with supervising the referendum centers in all Iraq, the internal security forces, the departments tasked with duties on the referendum day, the inmates and the detainees, excluding those imprisoned for immoral crimes and those at hospitals who cannot go to the referendum centers. The judges themselves will visit the patients at hospitals.

Official on Media Coverage of Referendum

JN0910152695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA) — More than 600 Arab and foreign correspondents will cover the 15 October public referendum. They include Arab and foreign chief editors, directors of radio and television networks, and directors of news agencies.

Kamil al-Sharqi, director general of the Information Department at the Ministry of Culture and Information, told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the networks that will cover the referendum include CNN, BBC, CBS, WTN, ATN, AFP, and REUTERS.

Al-Sharqi said the ministry has made all arrangements to facilitate the mission of the delegations. This includes escorts, interpreters, means of transportation, and communications centers. The ministry will allow the correspondents free movement between the governorates to cover the public referendum.

Islamic Movement Supports KDP Against PKK

NC0810193695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Shaykh 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz, leader of the Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan, "near the Iraq-Iran border," by 'Isam Hasan in the Tehran International studio; date not given; from the "News and Reports" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Your Eminence Shaykh 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz, we received reports from Iraqi Kurdistan that the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has announced general mobilization to confront the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK]. What is your information about this mobilization and how do you view it?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In the name of God, praise be to God, and God's peace and prayers be upon the prophet. We have been told that the PKK declared war on the KDP and attacked many villages near the Turkish border. We obtained a confirmation of the report. Our brothers came from Zakho, Dahuk, and (Barwari) and told us that the PKK did attack villages and harm many people. So we issued a statement in which we denounced the PKK's acts and interference in the affairs of Iraq's Kurdistan. We in fact support the KDP; there is a pact between us. By virtue of neighborliness, and given the fact that the

PKK is attacking people in our Kurdistan, we denounced the PKK. KDP forces actually confronted the PKK, and fierce fighting took place for several days. Recently, before I travelled to the Islamic Republic of Iran at its invitation, we heard that things eased because the PKK forces were dispersed and the KDP managed to occupy many posts near the Turkish border.

[Hasan] How do you in the Islamic Movement view the referendum which Saddam Husayn is scheduled to hold to extend his term in office?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] This, of course, is a corrupt, void, and unacceptable referendum because the people are under Saddam's yoke. Saddam is an oppressive ruler and a criminal against the people, the neighboring peoples, international laws, and Islam. This referendum cannot, therefore, be held under Saddam's coercion and under the power of steel and fire. We denounce such referendums and lies. The entire Iraqi people have nothing to do with this referendum. But people in Baghdad and its suburbs, who are under the control of Saddam and his corrupt and oppressive forces, are forced [to participate in the referendum]. So, we are absolutely not interested in this referendum, and we do not accept Saddam or the Ba'th Party ruling Iraq once again. The Iraqi people reject such a referendum and any similar measures.

[Hasan] Thanks Shaykh 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz for giving our program this opportunity.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You are welcome; we thank you and God bless you.

NPPF Party Pledges Support for Saddam

JN0910211595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Patriotic and Progressive Front [NPPF] has asserted that the Iraqi people will make the 15 October popular referendum day a great and eternal national feast to respond to hateful and aggressive policies and to allegations by the hostile propaganda against great Iraq and its historic leadership.

In a statement it issued today, the [NPPF] said that its parties and their masses say in one voice: Yes, yes, yes, to leader Saddam Husayn, whom God has granted to all the Iraqis to be an honest symbol and hero to launch the march of victory and pride—the march of jihad and construction as an example of a capable Iraq for Arabism and humanity. Enemies, the statement says, have realized that Iraq is a thorn in their eyes under symbolic leader Saddam Husayn, who enjoys wise leadership and a patient soul that resists aggression and everything threatening the sovereignty, dignity, strength, and pride of this mujahid people.

Islamic Leader Receives KDP Delegation

NC0510160895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al- Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], received a delegation representing the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] in his office in Tehran on the morning of 4 October. The delegation was led by Dr. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, a member of the KDP political bureau, and included Dr. Jawhar Namiq, Kurdistan parliament speaker and a member of the KDP political bureau, and Azad Durwari, a member of the KDP political bureau.

The two-hour meeting discussed conditions in Iraq, particularly in Kurdistan, and the serious attempts to eliminate tension among the conflicting parties.

Ayatollah al-Hakim pointed out that the main target of the opposition should be the regime. He stressed the need to avoid internal conflicts that deplete the nation and the opposition's energies. Saddam's regime will be fiercer and stronger if it sees a weak opposition, he said.

His eminence approved a plan to revitalize the opposition and work to overthrow the regime to rescue the Iraqi people.

Commenting on the agreement in Dublin between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the KDP, his eminence criticized the paragraph that provides for safeguarding Turkish interests, saying it is an issue that concerns other states as well.

The KDP delegation agreed with his eminence on this point, explaining that the Turks applied pressure to force the inclusion of the paragraph.

Al-Hakim suggested that the two parties to the coalition issue a joint communique and annex it to the Dublin agreement. This communique should call for safeguarding the security of Iraq and other neighboring states.

Iranian Mediation With Kurds Called 'Interference'

JN0610110495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Oct (INA) — AL-THAWRAH notes Iran recently hosted Mas'ud Barzani, Jalal Talabani, and their representatives. This move, the paper says, is the pinnacle of political hypocrisy since it occurred only a few weeks after Iran received a large, official Iraqi delegation, during which the

Iranian leaders declared their "sincere" intentions to normalize relations with Iraq and resolve outstanding issues between the two countries.

In an article today on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the paper says Iran's mediation between the parties responsible for the abnormal situation in northern Iraq confirms that it continues its familiar and unacceptable policy of interfering in Iraq's affairs. This policy has become an indivisible part of Iran's ruling mentality, irrespective of all statements and positions to the contrary.

The paper adds: This position apparently shows that Iran is trying to do something to serve U.S. interests and schemes in the region to improve its relations with Washington. The United States has so far failed to achieve a successful settlement between the two warring camps in northern Iraq. This may have encouraged Iran to achieve what Washington has failed to accomplish by acting as a "godfather" for this settlement. Or it could be part of a deal with the U.S. Administration under which the latter would agree to make Tehran a center of regional influence under the U.S. canopy.

AL-THAWRAH says that with this recent move, Iran has chosen to burn all the bridges built so far with Iraq without even making sure that it will win American satisfaction. Thus, the Iranian rulers have lost everything. They are now left with hypocrisy, deception, and double-dealing. Iraq can never accept this policy, and will not condone it this time, having undergone a 15-year bitter experience with the Iranian regime.

AL-THAWRAH urges the Tehran regime to choose either to pursue true, sincere, and honest normalization with Iraq, or continue its policy of treachery, deception, and hypocrisy. Normalization means that the Iranian regime must stop interfering in our internal affairs and must fulfill the obligations of neighborliness and balanced, equitable, and legitimate relations. In return, Iran will gain a neighbor, a friend, and perhaps an economic and political partner. This will benefit Iran now and in the future. On the other hand, if Iran chooses to continue its policy of deception and double-dealing — which we will no longer tolerate — then Iran's calls for normalization will fall on deaf ears. In this case, Iran will be the loser and will not achieve anything by interfering in Iraq's affairs.

Ministry Spokesman on Turkish 'Invasion'

JN0810114495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1108 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA) — Iraq reiterated its strong condemnation of the Turkish Armed Forces' violation of its sovereignty, airspace, and territory. Commenting on the Turkish Armed Forces' new invasion of northern Iraq, a Foreign Ministry spokesman made the following statement to INA today:

The government of the Republic of Iraq categorically rejects the pretexts repeated by the Turkish Government to justify its military operations inside the Republic of Iraq and considers these operations a blatant violation of its sovereignty, the principles of international law, the provisions of the UN Charter, and good neighborly relations.

The spokesman added: On 6 October the Turkish Armed Forces carried out another invasion of northern Iraq. The Turkish Special Forces, supported by helicopters, penetrated 4 km inside Iraqi territory in the Kani Masi area under the pretext of chasing armed separatists from Turkey's Kurds.

The spokesman added that the invasion caused many casualties and inflicted heavy damage on the property of our Kurdish people there.

He said: Iraq has explained frequently to Turkey that cooperation and direct, constructive dialogue with the central authority in Iraq, as well as stopping the colonialist interference in the region—the so-called poised hammer forces on Turkish territory representing an element of this interference—are bound to remove the threats posed by the erratic situation in northern Iraq.

The spokesman added: The Iraqi Government demands that the Turkish Government fully and immediately withdraw its forces and stop repeating these violations, which are not in harmony with Iraq's desire to promote and enhance relations with its neighbor Turkey in a way that serves the interests and aspirations of both peoples.

The spokesman said the Foreign Ministry summoned the Turkish charge d'affaires in Baghdad today and informed him of the Iraqi Government's strong protest against the new Turkish invasion of Iraqi territory.

Kuwaiti National Released After Serving Sentence

JN0810093095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0858 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA) — Iraqi authorities, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Baghdad, released Kuwaiti citizen Majid Manhit Mut'ib Sharar al-Mutayri today. He was sentenced to two years in prison for entering Iraqi territory illegally.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that this Kuwaiti citizen was released after he served his sentence. He was handed over to the ICRC in Baghdad, which will return him to Kuwait via the area of Safwan.

Majid Manhit Mut'ib is a Kuwaiti Government official, according to his passport, No. 721220, issued on 16 June 1990. He entered Iraq illegally via Iran in violation of Article 24 of the residence law.

Ministers Meet Jordanian Ambassador

JN0910163395 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (PETRA)—The Iraqi minister of agriculture expressed the desire to cooperate with Jordanian investors in the agricultural sector, especially in the field of artesian well-digging.

This was expressed at his meeting with Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad Bassam Qaqish yesterday, during which discussions dealt with a number of issues and bilateral relations and ways of enhancing and developing them in a manner that serves the interests of the two fraternal states.

Qaqish said his visit with the Iraqi minister aimed to maintain bilateral cooperation and contacts.

Meanwhile, Qaqish met with Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, Iraqi defense minister. The talks dealt with a number of current Arab issues. The two sides emphasized the need for joint action to lift the economic siege imposed on the Iraqi people.

Rabin Rejects Syrian Conditions for Golan Talks

TA1010081195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Syria is now willing to negotiate with Israel on a key issue related to Golan Heights security arrangements, but Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin refuses Syria's stipulation that such talks must be held by senior diplomats instead of army officers, sources in the Prime Minister's Office, as well as others, told THE JERUSALEM POST.

In particular, informed sources say, Syria is now ready to negotiate an issue the US and Israel consider a prerequisite to resolving the question of Golan early warning stations — the level, character and geographic proximity of Israeli and Syrian offensive troops on either side of the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, US officials and officials in the Prime Minister's Office last night flatly denied comments by Labor MK [Knesset member] Hagay Merom that while Rabin was in Washington two weeks ago, top-level Israeli officials spurned a request by Christopher to hold talks in Jerusalem and Damascus at end of this month in a bid to restart Israel-Syria negotiations. [passage omitted]

Rabin Comments on Syria Track, Hamas 'Terror'

TA0610185395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Shlomo Ganor at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv "a short while ago" — recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] What about Shaykh Yasin, will he also be released?

[Rabin] At present, I am not dealing with the spiritual leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He is not among the candidates for release — definitely not at this stage — just as all the other Hamas prisoners and detainees are not candidates for early release before they complete their sentences.

[Ganor] What is your attitude toward the rapprochement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA]?

[Rabin] If the PA reaches agreement with Hamas on halting terrorism, I will view this as the achievement of a common goal of both Palestinians and Israelis. If one can stop terrorism through agreement, there is always a better chance of eradicating this phenomenon than by just fighting against it, even if one wages the kind of ruthless battle we have led against Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorism. As I have already noted, a number of serious suicide terrorist attacks were perpetrated from areas under our control.

[Ganor] Would you welcome the participation of Hamas in the political process and elections?

[Rabin] As soon as a body ceases to engage in terrorism and is prepared to make peace with Israel, uphold the law there, and become a partner, it becomes an internal Palestinian matter.

[Ganor] In your speech yesterday, you pointed out that the PA has so far failed to meet its commitments. Will Israel continue to turn a blind eye?

[Rabin] We do not turn a blind eye. We have taken steps, and if the Palestinians do not adopt the appropriate measures, we will have to impose a closure in order to guarantee at least greater security for the residents of Israel's sovereign territory as well as to increase the IDF's activity in the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip with mixed populations. It is not just a coincidence that the closure has been imposed for the duration of the holiday period. This closure will continue until such a date as we see.... [pauses]

[Ganor] Incidentally, Mr. Prime Minister, the Israeli Arab community has complained that they were not included in the political process vis-a-vis the Palestinians. The question is whether or not you will take them into account in the future, as the political process moves along?

[Rabin] Look, the negotiations must be conducted by the government and by those officials whose job it is to handle them.

[Ganor] What about the Syrian track? Today, the Syrian foreign minister once again blamed Israel for holding up the peace process?

[Rabin] Judging from both the media reports and the talks held by the Syrian foreign minister in Washington, I have not received any encouraging information or impressions on developments in the talks with Syria. As we sit talking here, the Syrian foreign minister may be holding meetings in Washington. In the meantime, the general picture is of Syrian intransigence and hardline demands. This comes in addition to the very framework or pattern of the talks, which differs from the negotiations we held with the Egyptians, the Palestinians, and the Jordanians. The Syrians are not prepared to talk to us directly or in private. We appreciate the efforts of the United States, the talks' sponsor, which has granted its good services; however, what is really needed is the kind of dialogue we had with the Jordanians, Palestinians, and Egyptians. In my opinion, the ball is in the

Syrian court. They must begin to understand that when negotiations come against the background of war, with both parties holding conflicting positions, then the purpose of these negotiations is to bridge the gaps between the two sides, find out which interests are vital for each party, and search — while demonstrating a readiness to make concessions — for an agreement that will really be a peace treaty.

[Ganor] Do you think this is attainable by the end of 1995, Mr. Prime Minister?

[Rabin] I do not want to make any predictions. On the basis of the information in my possession at this time, I am not sure that there is a chance of this.

[Ganor] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Peres on Taba, Meeting With 'Arafat, Syrian Talks

TA0710122095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by 'Adi Talmor on 7 October; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Talmor] Good morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Have you managed to sleep and get over the marathon Knesset debate?

[Peres] I managed to sleep, and I am always vitalized.

[Talmor] Are those who said that the Land of Israel was redivided this week right?

[Peres] No, because it had previously been divided. There were those who shut their eyes. It is not the agreement that divided Israel, but people who did so. It is ridiculous to say that it was the agreement that made Gaza Palestinian. The Palestinians make Gaza Palestinian.

[Talmor] Are you meeting with Yasir 'Arafat to coordinate actions in the coming week or two?

[Peres] Yes, we will meet tonight to coordinate and to make sure that there is an orderly transfer from a security point of view, and we also have several security demands.

[Talmor] Why is a meeting necessary at such a senior level? Should the current stage not be left to those who execute policy?

[Peres] Because the issues are on a high level. This is new, unprecedented, and there are lots of questions in lots of fields. At least for their part, the answers must be provided by their Number 1 man.

[Talmor] The 400-page agreement does not provide answers to those questions?

[Peres] For instance, it does not contain dates and to what extent treatment of escapees and wanted men will be effective. The agreement is not a reality — it has to create a reality, and in doing so problems constantly crop up. For example, the Palestinians have not yet finalized a date for the elections, which has repercussions on the entire agreement. They can choose a date prior to Ramadan, which I believe falls on 22 January. If they do that, however, not all the roads will be ready; therefore, redeployment will not be complete then. They can choose a later date, such as March or April. All that, of course, involves the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] preparedness and a long list of problems.

[Talmor] Do you think that the president's decision not to pardon the women prisoners with blood on their hands will affect the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians?

[Peres] I hope not. We told the Palestinians that the government will recommend the release of all the women, but we explained that we do not have total power. We explained Israel's constitutional structure: There are things the government can decide, there are things the president can decide, and there are things the army commanders can decide. We must abide by the law.

[Talmor] Do you not think it will have an impact on the negotiations if we merely made a promise to try and failed?

[Peres] Everything has an impact. It will not stop the negotiations.

[Talmor] The coalition lost two of its members permanently this week. How will it continue to function and advance the peace process with Syria with two members fewer?

[Peres] Their's was a very grave action because the party voted according to its platform. They are committed to that platform and cannot do as they please. We will have to consider what alternatives we have.

[Talmor] Such as?

[Peres] I do not want to give examples.

[Talmor] Is there a possibility of coalition negotiations with members of the opposition?

[Peres] First of all, that is not my job, it is the prime minister's.

[Talmor] Would you recommend that to him?

[Peres] If I have anything to recommend to him, I will do so, but it is still too early.

[Talmor] The final question. It seems that the negotiations with the Syrians are stuck deep in the mud.

[Peres] At this stage, the negotiations with the Syrians are, as you said, stuck, frozen — and because of them. They really think that time is always working in their favor. The whole world spoils them and they think everything will go their way. That is wrong; in negotiations there are two sides. The Syrians cannot pose new demands and sulk all the time. If they decide they want negotiations, they will take place; if they do not want them, there will not be any. Anyway, we make certain of one thing: No one can blame Israel for severing the negotiations. If they want to take responsibility for the negotiations' being severed, we will not interfere. For our part, we will not bear that responsibility.

Merom: Syrian Talks Halted Until After Elections

TA0910124295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor Knesset Member Hagay Merom has said that Israel's leaders have decided to make do with the peace process with the Palestinians for the time being and resume the negotiations with Syria only after the Knesset elections [November 1996].

Merom opposes that policy that peace with Syria is far more important than any other component of the political process and it will end the war in south Lebanon, where IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers are being killed.

Envoy Urges Syria To Make 'Practical Decisions'

TA0810073595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, said that Syria is interested in achieving peace but has still not made practical decisions on such issues as holding direct negotiations and refraining from issuing ultimatums. Ambassador Rabinovich believes that officials in Damascus would like U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is about to return to the region, to devote more time to promoting the negotiations, but that the Syrians must send signals that Christopher's mission would have good prospects for success. Itamar Rabinovich was speaking to Qol Yisra'el.

'Important Agreements' Reached With PA

TA1010102695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Oct 95 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli defense sources have said that "important agreements" were achieved in the talks between Israel and Palestinians on continued joint activity by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Palestinians in the war against terrorism.

At the 7 October meeting at the Erez junction between IDF and Shin Bet representatives and the Palestinian security services held prior to the Peres-'Arafat meeting, the Palestinians promised to bolster their activity against fugitives from the Islamic terrorist organizations.

Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command; Maj. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, head of the Intelligence Branch; Maj. Gen. Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of the Southern Command; the Shin Bet head; and other officers attended the meeting. The Palestinian side was represented by Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in the Gaza Strip, and others. At the meeting, it was agreed to cooperate to prevent attacks by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad and to exchange security information during the IDF's West Bank redeployment. The Palestinians promised to incarcerate for long periods terrorists caught in the PA.

Security sources said that "the Palestinians promised unequivocally that following the redeployment they will do whatever they can to prevent attacks and even promised to carry out operations against Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists on the West Bank."

Knesset Member Views Debate on Taba Accord

NC0710082495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party in Israel and Arab-Israeli Knesset member, in Nazareth, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] Good morning. We welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Darawshah] Thank you, my brother.

[Husayn] 'Abd-al-Wahhab, could we discuss the significance and dimensions of the Israeli Knesset ratification of the Taba agreement?

[Darawshah] The agreement was ratified on Friday [6 October] morning after long and extensive discussion.

All the Knesset members and ministers took part in the discussions, which were long and sharp. The Israeli right tried every means to thwart the agreement. They even attracted two Labor Party Knesset members, (Kahalane) and (Zissman), who voted against the Taba — Oslo B — agreement. Despite all this the government got the majority vote from 61 Knesset members who approved the agreement. We supported this agreement proceeding from the notion that it is a further step along the way to establishing peace between the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples and is an important step toward entrenching Palestinian rights. This agreement lifts the occupation of all Palestinian residents of the West Bank. Not all Palestinian territory has been liberated. But the Palestinian Authority has taken control of about one-third of the West Bank area. All the residents and all the populated villages, towns, and camps are now under Palestinian sovereignty.

This is a positive step down a long, hard, and trying road. But this agreement is important because it guarantees the release of male and female Palestinian detainees in stages. It also secures the Palestinian people important rights, hitherto denied them.

[Husayn] Regarding the release of male and female Palestinian detainees being held in Israeli prisons and detention centers, the ministerial committee met yesterday to discuss this issue. Could you tell us something about how serious Israel is in its commitment to release the first batch of these detainees?

[Darawshah] In general, the release of around 1,100 Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons has been approved. But the agreement regarding the release of 28 female Palestinian detainees has been violated. The head of [the Israeli] state, as well as the ministerial committee responsible for discussing the issue of releasing female detainees, very regrettably approved the release of just 24 female detainees from a total of 28, keeping four women in prison on the pretext that their hands, as they said, are drenched in Jewish blood. So these four women have killed Jews. This violates the Oslo B agreement and even violates the pledge the head of state made to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak when he promised to release all the female Palestinian detainees. We consider this the beginning of the violation of the Oslo B agreement. This is not correct.

[Husayn] Regarding a start to the implementation of the Taba agreement, particularly the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside Palestinian villages and towns in the West Bank and the withdrawal from Janin, when will the Israeli forces' redeployment begin?

[Darawshah] Instructions have been issued to the Israeli forces to withdraw in accordance with a timetable that has been agreed upon. According to what has been published, it seems that some time in mid-November withdrawal will start from Janin in the north of the West Bank. Then withdrawal will continue every week from other towns, such as Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Nabulus, Ramallah, and Bethlehem, until the end of March 1996, when roadworks on the circular road round Hebron will be finished. Then Hebron will be vacated by the Israeli forces, apart from some areas where some Israeli settlers will remain. The ring road round the town will be finished and will link Hebron to the village and settlement of Qiryat Arba', right next to Hebron.

Hopes are that withdrawal will take place gradually and practically, starting next month. At the same time instructions have been issued to the bureaus of what is called the Israeli Civil Administration that fall under the Israeli army and the Israeli Defense Ministry to withdraw and finalize their activities inside the West Bank. The processes of withdrawal and redeployment are gradual and require time. But every additional withdrawal from Arab territories liberates the Palestinian living on this land from the Israeli occupation and expands the sovereignty of the Palestinian Authority, which represents the Palestinian people.

[Husayn] The Israeli housing minister has said that the number of housing units around the Jerusalem area will be increased. How do you view this, particularly since Jerusalem, as you very well know, is one of the issues postponed until the final stage of discussions?

[Darawshah] Actually, Arab Jerusalem and the land and houses of the Palestinians in Jerusalem are targeted by the Rabin government, as they have been by all Israeli Governments. All the parties in Israel, including Labor and Meretz, who form this government, agree that united Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel. Of course our Palestinian people reject this, we reject this, and the Arab Democratic Party, which I represent, rejects this. We believe that Arab East Jerusalem should be the capital of the Palestinian state. Any attempts at imposing faits accomplis by expropriating land, building housing for the Jews, or buying or expropriating Arab houses are contrary to the spirit of peace and to the understanding of the Oslo agreement and the initial Declaration of Principles. The announcement the Israeli housing minister made goes against the Palestinian people and is contrary to peace. As we resisted in the past and prevented the expropriation of Arab land in the two districts of Bayt Safafa and Shu'fat, we will, this time round, act again as a serious political and national Arab Palestinian force inside the Knesset to thwart the expropriation of more Arab land and housing for Jewish settlers on the land in Arab East Jerusalem. But much depends on Palestinian and Arab moves and international views regarding Israeli attempts to expand their sovereignty, impose their hegemony, and expropriate Palestinian land and houses inside East Jerusalem.

[Husayn] A security cordon is still imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip one week after the Taba agreement was signed in Washington. How do you view the Israeli stance with regard to the continuing closure policy?

[Darawshah] They are using security pretexts as though they are afraid that some Palestinian rejectionist groups, or the Palestinian opposition, will carry out acts such as blowing up cars or buses. They say they have information that Palestinian guerrillas will infiltrate Israel to carry out operations, especially now that the Taba agreement has been signed. But I believe these are all pretexts, because the closure of these territories inflicts great losses on the Palestinian people from the political, social, and economic aspects. Every day of closure costs the Palestinian people around $2 million, that is, over $700 million in one year. The closure is very dangerous for the Palestinian people socially and economically. We ask that the suffering of the Palestinian people be alleviated and the closure be lifted. The Israeli Government has decided to maintain the current closure until Sunday [8 October]. But there are fears this closure will be extended until the end of the Israeli festivities in mid-October.

[Husayn] Dear brothers, at the end of this dialogue we thank Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, head of the Arab Democratic Party and Israeli Knesset member, who has just been with us on the phone lines between Cairo and Nazareth.

[Darawshah] I thank you and greetings to all.

Chief of Staff Interviewed on Taba Agreement

TA0910194195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Interview with Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq by military correspondent Roni Daniyel, on "the Lebanese border" on 1 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Daniyel] Three days after the signing of the interim agreement in Washington, Major General Amnon Shahaq sees the situation as complicated, but in his cautious style, uncolored by rhetoric, he says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be able to live with the situation and provide security even if the army did not get everything it wanted.

[Shahaq] The main thing is what sort of reality there will be on the ground. The key to everything from now on in Judaea and Samaria is to what extent the Palestinian Authority [PA] provides detailed guidelines to its security elements — its preventive and other intelligence and the Palestinian Police — to carry out an uncompromising policy against Palestinian terrorism. If there will be terrorism — whether Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, or others — from territory under the PA's control, that will create a reality, which I believe will be very hard to live with.

[Daniyel] Will be IDF be able to act in such a reality, since it will no longer be deployed there?

[Shahaq] Their activity must be uncompromising, because we will not be able nor agree to live with a reality in which there will be an understanding for terrorism from territory under the onus of the PA.

[Daniyel] To be realistic, such terrorism will exist. The question is whether the agreement permits the IDF to do anything after a terrorist action.

[Shahaq] To be realistic, such terrorism existed all the time. I do not know what terrorism there will be. The moment the PA takes responsibility for the Nabulus casbah — not today, we are responsible for what is happening there — it will have to know how to create a sources of information, control the people, and act seriously; otherwise both sides will be in trouble.

[Daniyel] If the PA does not act in such a manner, with what will we be able to threaten it?

[Shahaq] You know that there are conflicting views about the situation in Gaza. Hamas has continued to operate in Gaza, although in recent months, the PA has taken action against it there. That has been its test. I think that had the PA not acted the way it did against Hamas and the other organizations in recent months, I doubt whether it would have received what it did in the latest agreement. The statesmen will have to consider these issues. I will not say that we will be able to enter Nabulus as freely as we can today. Everyone understands this one. We will continue to control most of the territory from the security standpoint. We will evacuate the towns and hand over responsibility to the PA and the Palestinian Police. That means not only hoisting flags and providing work, but also responsibility for life and security, and fighting terrorism. I believe we will not be able to compromise over anything less than a clear-cut, determined, and uncompromising fight against terrorism. [passage omitted]

All the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria are and will continue to be defended, and the arrangements will not be very different from what they are now. Some settlements we will defend with the residents. Each settlement will have a road for which the IDF will have sole responsibility and not in partnership with anyone else. Therefore, the level of routine security will not be less than what it is now. I believe the IDF has the ability to provide security and we will do so.

[Daniyel] Did the army want more than the politicians provided?

[Shahaq] We are responsible for security and do not share it with anyone. We presented our concepts and our needs, and I can say that we can live with the existing security arrangements in Judaea and Samaria. [passage omitted]

Soldiers, Officers Refuse Reserve Duty Over Taba

TA1010053995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A group of 10 reserve soldiers, most of them officers, has decided to refuse reserve duty in the army because of the peace agreement signed by the government with the PLO. The group says the peace process is against their moral beliefs and when they receive call-up orders they will refuse service. Several of them have already received a call-up for next week and say they will not show up. In response, the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman says refusing reserve duty is a contravention of the law and anyone who does not show up for service will be charged.

Hamas Said Carrying Israeli Message to Sudan

TA1010094695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Oct 95 p 7

[Report by David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An Israeli security source said on the eve of the Sukkoth holiday that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] delegation that left Gaza for Sudan "will convey messages from Israel to the movement's world leadership, including a proposal to receive information on the whereabouts of soldier Ilan Sa'adon's body in return for the release of Hamas prisoners."

The source said that Israel was interested in permitting the delegation to leave for Sudan in order to transmit the messages to Hamas and to study whether the views of Hamas' political wing have changed following the signing of the two Oslo accords. "It should be stressed that this refers to the Hamas political arm and not its military arm," the source said. [passage omitted]

During Israel's negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, Israel turned to the PA for information on the location of Sa'adon's body. The issue was also raised in the Hamas-PA negotiations.

By the way, at the prime minister's direct order, in recent months Israel has been refusing to hand over to the families of Hamas activists who perpetrated suicide attacks in Israel the bodies of the terrorists. The Abu-Kabir Forensic Science Institute has the bodies of several terrorists, such as the murderers of Nahshon Wachsman and the bus suicide attackers. "We want Sa'adon's body and then you will receive the bodies of your children. If that is how Hamas plays the game, that is how we will deal with it," Israeli security sources told the Palestinian families.

Hamas knows that the location of the body is a strong card in the bargaining and has often tried to use it. [passage omitted]

Closure 'Apparently' To Continue Until 17 Oct

TA0810182995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The closure on Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip will continue until after the second holiday of Sukkoth [17 October]. This is the assessment of security elements. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that over the past 24 hours extensive searches have been conducted in the south in a bid to locate infiltrators from the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

The defense establishment still fears that a terrorist plans to infiltrate Israel with the intention of carrying out a suicide attack. The special IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Police deployment will continue throughout the holiday.

Detention of 'Ayyash's Mother Extended

TA0710174895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The remand of 'Ayshah 'Ayyash, mother of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitive Yahya 'Ayyash, has been extended by six days. 'Ayyash's mother was arrested three weeks ago at her home near Nabulus in the West Bank.

Likud Plans Campaign for Jerusalem Sovereignty

TA0710133195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud leaders are inaugurating a campaign to maintain Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem in order to block the concessions made to the PLO, which they believe are part of the Oslo B agreement. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar said that Likud leaders will convene next week in the 'Etzyon Bloc, which they believe has been Jerusalem's southern flank since the War of Independence. The Likud will also try to pass motions to bolster Jerusalem's status, to strengthen Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem, to close Orient House, and to extend Jerusalem's municipal boundary to include Giv'at Ze'ev, Ma'ale Adumim, and Betar.

Lahav Upgrading MIG's for 2 'Foreign' Countries

TA0810095195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 08 Oct 95 p 16

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahav, the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] subsidiary responsible for combat aircraft upgrading and servicing, is upgrading MiG-21 jets for two foreign countries, industry officials have confirmed.

The MiG-21 upgrading project was first announced last August, when the first upgraded jet flew here. Lahav's customer at that time was believed to be Cambodia, although IAI refused to disclose the client's identity.

Now Lahav is upgrading MiG-21s for a second country in a deal which involves returning jets to service that were poorly maintained for years. The deal includes installing new avionic systems, cockpit modifications, and engine overhauling.

Company officials said that Lahav had to specially train test pilots so it could accept responsibility for the upgrading of jets local crews were unfamiliar with, such as the MiG-21 and the F-5.

"We sent pilots to a country where the MiGs are used and they received a test pilot certificate," said 'Ofer Shifris, Lahav's director of marketing and business development.

King Returns, Calls Tour Results 'Good'

JN0910200895 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur have returned home with God's care and providence from a tour that included the United States, Britain, and the premises of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. In arrival statements, His Majesty King Husayn told Jordan Television that the results of the tour were good and productive. His majesty said:

[Begin recording] [Husayn] My visit to Washington gave me the opportunity to hold talks with the U.S. President and U.S. leaders. We held frank and clear talks on all issues on the bilateral level, the region, and the conference that is due to be held soon in Jordan, which will host an elite international group. Thanks be to God, all the results are good and positive.

[Correspondent Kassab Samawi] Sir, will Jordan propose a formula parallel to the U.S.-proposed development bank that aims to support social development in the region?

[Husayn] I do not think that we are opposed to the idea of establishing the bank. However, we have always said that there should be a source for planning and financing with reasonable conditions, so that the required results will be realized as soon as possible that will be felt by people.

[Samawi] There was a U.S. pledge to support Jordan's armament capability. In what area will this be done?

[Husayn] Yes sir, there is a pledge and commitment to support us in terms of arms supplies and modernization to reach a proper level, God willing.

[Correspondent Susan 'Afanah] *Sir, do you think the Palestinians and Israelis will overcome the differences in their newly-signed accord? And do you expect any other major breakthroughs, namely on the Syrian-Israeli track?*

[Husayn] *As far as the Palestinian-Israeli dimension is concerned, I believe that the agreement that was ratified was a major step forward. And I hope that the future will see more progress. It is obvious that this will take time, patience, determination by all to make peace a reality and hopefully, the comprehensive peace is something that we will be rewarded with before too long with the participation of Syria and Lebanon.*

['Afanah] *Sir, there are reports that President Clinton might be coming to the economic summit. Have you received assurances with that?*

[King] *I have not. I am not aware that the President himself will be coming, but certainly there will a very high-level coming from the United States.* [end recording] [passage omitted]

Returning with his majesty the king was Prime Minister Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

'Firm U.S. Role' Needed To Ensure Accords Compliance

JN0710112095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Oct 95 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "The U.S. Role and the Israeli Commitment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is true that the Israeli Knesset endorsed the Taba accord on expanding Palestinian self-rule in a part of the occupied West Bank. Nonetheless, the sizable Israeli opposition to this agreement and the statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the start of the Knesset debate on 5 October have called into question the credibility of the Jewish state, as well as its ability to comply with the agreements the current Israeli Government has signed or will sign in the future. This government's endorsement of the principle of exchanging occupied Arab lands for peace has been shaken. For Rabin reiterated Israel's determination to retain control over Jerusalem, use the River Jordan as its security border, continue to oppose creation of a Palestinian state, and reject withdrawal to the 4 June 196 borders.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's statements yesterday on the firm role the United States played in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to render them a success were well-timed, since they were in the immediate aftermath of the Knesset's endorsement of the Oslo B agreement. These statements are a reminder of the importance of Washington's continued firm role, which is needed to dispel Arab fears created by the sizable Israeli opposition to the Oslo B accord that manifested itself within and outside the Knesset. Moreover, maintaining a firm U.S. role will assuage Arab concerns over the statements made by the Israeli prime minister. Both these factors give rise to legitimate Arab worries over the final status negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis. The firm U.S. role that rendered the Taba talks a success is required for the success of subsequent phases of the peace process.

The U.S. role is a prerequisite if the Arab-Israeli talks in general and the Palestinian-Israeli talks in particular are to succeed. This role needs to be activated and promoted in order to ensure the success of the Taba accord, allay Arab fears and doubts, and help the Israeli Government honor its signature on the agreements it has already signed with the Palestinians and other Arab quarters, as well as those it will sign in the future.

Given the current balance of power, a firm U.S. role is the only guarantee for protecting the minimum Palestinian national aspirations and the Palestinians' right to self-determination. At present, it is crucial that the Palestinian and Arab trust in the credible U.S. contributions to just, comprehensive, balanced, and durable peace in the Middle East be protected.

Offer To Mediate in Syria-Israel Track Rejected

JN0910131195 Amman AL-HIWAR in Arabic 9 Oct 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-HIWAR learned from knowledgeable political sources that Syria has recently turned down a Jordanian offer to mediate with Israel in order to foster the Syrian-Israeli track.

The offer states that the Jordanian Government is willing to play an active role in persuading the Israelis to accept the Syrian leadership's demands.

The political sources told AL-HIWAR that the Jordanian offer was meant to warm Syria's attitude and show it that Jordan adheres to a comprehensive settlement.

Syria's Khaddam Declines To Invite al-Kabariti

JN0710212695 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 9 Oct 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from the Jordanian capital mention that within the context of Jordan's efforts to normalize relations with Syria, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti asked a close friend of Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to communicate to the latter his wish to visit Damascus to meet with his Syrian Counterpart Faruq al-Shar' to discuss how to overcome the cool relations between the two countries.

But, Khaddam told the mediator that Syria cannot at present invite any Jordanian official because it rejects all the political developments Jordan has been witnessing since the conclusion of the Wadi al-'Araba agreement.

Syria Warns Amman Against Ventures With Israel

JN0910183095 Irbid AL-HIWAR in Arabic 9 Oct 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It seems that opposition to the Amman economic summit scheduled for late October is no longer confined to the Jordanian forces rejecting the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

On the sidelines of the recent Arab League meetings in Cairo, the regional opposition to this conference was strong, particularly by the Syrian side. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stressed to his Jordanian counterpart that it is impossible for Syria to attend this conference. Although the Jordanian Government has recently succeeded in persuading the Gulf financial centers to attend this conference as representatives of the Gulf states, and not observers, and despite the significance of this Gulf participation in terms of material and moral support for the conference, diplomatic efforts have failed to persuade Syria to attend the conference. Syrian participation would be more useful than the Gulf participation in the conference.

Since Jordan is aware of the importance of Syrian participation, it has spared no political effort to persuade the Syrian side to attend. However, the latter has insisted not to participate.

In a message responding to the request to participate in the conference, the Syrian side stated its belief that Jordan was the main reason behind the misunderstanding between the two countries, and that Jordan concluded a separate peace treaty with Israel and deviated from coordination, something which harmed the interests of both Syria and Lebanon.

Not only does the Syrian side reject participation in the conference, but it has also asked Jordan not to be engaged in joint projects with Israel on the regional level before achieving progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. The Syrian side rejected the idea that the success of this conference as a formula of regional cooperation would urge Israel to achieve progress on the peace track.

The Syrians concluded their message with an implicit threat to foil the conference when they stressed that any formula of discussing regional projects and stability will not succeed if Syria is not party to it.

Commenting on this situation, local observers told AL-HIWAR that this decision was expected as a Syrian reaction to the separate Jordanian peace deal. [passage omitted]

King, Iranian Ambassador Discuss Iraq

JN0710170095 Amman AL-MASHRIQ in Arabic 9-15 Oct 95 p 4

[Exclusive report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources said His Majesty King Husayn met with Ahmad Dastmalchian, the Iranian ambassador in Amman, before his departure for Washington. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim.

The sources said King Husayn informed the ambassador that Jordan is concerned about Iraqi territorial integrity and sovereignty and about the need to work seriously to end the suffering of the Iraqi people. King Husayn also stressed that Jordan differentiates much between the Iraqi regime and people.

This meeting is the first of its kind since Dastmalchian assumed office in Amman. Jordan delayed receiving the credentials of the Iranian ambassador due to the role Iran played in Lebanon during the 1980's.

For his part, the Iranian ambassador in Amman declined comment on his meeting with King Husayn, but informed sources told AL-MASHRIQ that since the defection of Husayn Kamil and his family to Jordan on 8 August, Tehran tried to send signals to Amman because it is convinced that Jordan has a basic role and is able to do something in the Iraqi field. Tehran also believes that Jordan is one of the countries surrounding Iraq that is most informed about what is going on in Iraq.

Iran blamed Jordan for not sharing with it the information related to developments in Iraq. This position was conveyed through Jordanian personalities who visited Tehran recently.

The Jordanian reply was calm as usual. An immediate decision was made on meeting with the ambassador to listen to the Iranian views on various issues of the region and developments in Iraq.

Sources close to the Iranian ambassador said the Iranian leadership, headed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is very satisfied with the meeting, but it asked for explanation from ranking Jordanian officials of the reality of a statement attributed to Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti published in the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ in which he said "what we are concerned about is concentration on the Iranian danger which threatens the Iraqi people, land, and sovereignty."

AL-MASHRIQ learned that Iran wants Jordan to take the initiative and convene a conference for the countries surrounding Iraq to discuss the future of Iraq and ways of easing their suffering, as well as peaceful solutions that secure their unity, sovereignty and dignity.

Iranian sources in Amman said representatives of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, led by Mas'ud Barzani met with 'Ali Khorram, the official in charge of the Iraqi file at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, to discuss solving the differences and restoring peace among them in preparation for attending the conference which is likely to be held in Amman. The sources said the Iranian delegation which will visit Amman to attend the UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development] will be at the highest level and will be assigned with meeting with Jordanian officials within the framework of consulting on Iraqi affairs.

Committee Quits Economic Summit; Israel Boycott Cited

JN0710101095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Oct 95 p 3

["Special to JORDAN TIMES" by Beatrix Immenkamp]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The private sector medical committee formed to represent the Jordanian medical community at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit has decided against participation in the conference, which is scheduled to begin Oct. 29.

The committee bowed to pressures from the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA), which argued that participation in the conference would violate the association's decision to boycott normalisation with Israel, committee organisers told the Jordan Times.

"The committee has decided to discontinue its activities," Sa'd Hammudah, a member of the committee, said.

"Three has been a disagreement between the JMA, which argued that participation in the conference constitutes a form of normalisation, and the medical committee, which argued that it did not, Mr. Hammudah said.

As members of the JMA, we decided to respect the JMA's decision," he explained.

Basim al-Dajani, president of the JMA, told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview last month that the JMA had informed the 11-member medical committee to act in accordance with JMA rules.

"The General Assembly of the Jordan Medical Association has voted against normalisation with Israel and against professional contacts with Israelis. Participation in conferences by members of the association should be in line with this decision. We have therefore instructed the medical committee to abide by the rules of the association and not to attend the MENA conference," Dr. al-Dajani said.

As practising physicians, all members of the medical committee are required to be members of the JMA.

The medical committee had been formed at the government's initiative to advertise Jordan's high-quality medical services in the region, especially since many patients come to Jordan from surrounding countries, Dr. Hammudah had told the JORDAN TIMES earlier.

Its 11 members came from the private sector.

According to Dr. Hammudah, the medical committee took its decision to withdraw from the conference at a meeting Thursday evening, and has already informed the JMA and the Private Sector Executive committee (PSEC), under whose auspices the committee was formed.

Shabib 'Ammari, rapporteur of the PSEC, told the JORDAN TIMES that a number of physicians had approached the PSEC with some very good ideas on how to promote Jordan as a regional medical centre.

The PSEC responded to these ideas and had facilitated the formation of a medical committee under its umbrella.

Dr. 'Ammari stressed, however, that the PSEC did not initiate the setting up of the committee, but was only offering assistance.

In the interview preceding the medical committee's decision to withdraw from the conference, Dr. 'Ammari said the PSEC would not interfere in the committee's deliberations, and added that he hoped that individual members would still attend the conference.

Dr. 'Ammari stressed the importance of scaling down the conflict between the medical committee and the JMA to its proper dimension.

"The PSEC has 11 sectoral committees, but we only have a problem with one of the committees," he said.

"Most of the members of other committees such as the construction committee, are members of a professional syndicate, such as, for example, the Jordanian Engineers Association or the Jordanian Contractors Association. Some members of committees have even provided funding for the PSEC. And none of them has had any problems with their associations," he said.

According to Dr. 'Ammari, the PSEC was created to improve the investment climate in Jordan and to prepare well-defined projects to be presented to the Arab and international business communities.

The work of the PSEC has no political dimension," he said. "it is up to participants if they wish to shake hands with Israelis. We respect the individual's decision on this," he explained.

Government 'Had No Hand' in Action Against Journalist

JN0910100895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 9 Oct 95 pp 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and information minister, said the government had no hand in what happened to an AL-HAYAH correspondent in Amman.

The information minister was answering a question by a chief editor of one of the dailies during his meeting with the chief editors on 8 October. The question was related to the legal procedures taken against the AL-HAYAH correspondent for a report he wrote that accused around 42 journalists and ministers of being on Iraq's payroll. The report said this shows Iraq's infiltration of Jordanian media and domestic politics.

Dr. al-Karaki said neither the government nor the Information Ministry has taken any legal action against the reporter. News agencies said the reporter is not a member of the Jordanian Journalists Association [JJA] and does not qualify as a reporter under JJA bylaws.

Dr. al-Karaki added that journalists took action, and then the public prosecutor opened an investigation into the charges. The information minister said no official will obstruct justice. Is it not the right of the people to hear what the court has to say about this matter [meaning the charges], which affects a part of them? When a state finds that 42 of its officials are accused, it should start asking questions. We should clear ourselves in court.

Dr. al-Karaki added that the Information Ministry sides by all journalists and does not want to see injustice done to anyone, even if that person is not a member of the Jordanian Journalists Association.

Buwayz Views Syrian Track, Christopher Visit

NC0910073995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Oct 95

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents at Beirut Airport on 8 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Minister: You raised Israel's annexation of Lebanese land in the south. What was the reaction at the UN?

[Buwayz] We first approached the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in Beirut to assess the problem. A report was released by the UN force following reconnaissance helicopter flights over the area. Israel is building a road parallel to this land and is taking some other measures that suggest a desire or readiness to annex this land. As a warning and to reactivate the monitoring duties of the UN, we have briefed the UN secretary general on the issue. My speech before the UN included a special paragraph on this issue.

[Correspondent] Have you ascertained the real reasons behind the cancellation of President Clinton's meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar'? How does this reflect on the peace process in the region?

[Buwayz] I believe Israel's persistent demands for early warning stations [in the Golan] spell a tense stage for the peace process. This demand would not be justified if we knew Israel possessed satellites and had access to U.S. satellites as well as to the data processed by these satellites, not to mention the information it receives from the U.S. AWACS [Airborne Warning And Control System] in the region. We believe demands for such stations are not so much connected with Israel's security, but with attempts on its part to remain in the Golan under another name and excuse. These stations presuppose the availability of a base the area of which must be agreed upon, a crew the number and makeup of which must be agreed upon, a supply route that needs to be agreed upon, and maybe even a defense system on which understanding must be reached. Accordingly, demanding early warning stations will drag the negotiations into many agreements on these stations. Instead of these stations becoming part of the solution, they will inevitably be a major cause complicating the solution. We do not believe these stations are justified under the advanced monitoring systems. Demands for them are being used as an obstacle to impose Israel's stay. The one making such demands is the one obstructing the negotiations.

[Correspondent] Do we understand from this that Secretary of State Christopher will visit the region soon to resolve these complications?

[Buwayz] I believe that so far there is no information on a possible visit. A discussion is under way and intensive contacts are being held to find a way out, first for resuming the talks at a reasonable and acceptable level and second for resolving this issue in particular.

Minister Drops Charges Against Fatah's al-Maqdah

NC0910125595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tourism Minister Nicholas Fattush today sent a message to Public Attorney Judge 'Adnan 'Addum requesting that charges be dropped in the lawsuit he filed against Munir al-Maqdah. He asked for a suspension of measures to pursue him on charges of issuing a threat. In his message Fattush said:

Following my return from abroad, I was surprised by remarks made by Munir al-Maqdah. Since the remarks neither affected nor terrified me; since I refuse to allow anything to be exploited to spoil my relations with the Palestinian people, who have a legitimate cause and to whom we continue to contribute much; since I refuse to see anyone making personal gains out of my relations with the Palestinian people, whom I fully believe to be a people who deserve respect and amity and who have a right to a free and dignified life; and since my rejection of the resettlement of the Palestinians seeks to serve the interest of Lebanon and the Palestinian cause, which we hold dear and respect, for all these reasons and out of simply amity, I would like to drop the case against Munir al-Maqdah and any instigators, involved individuals, or accomplices. I request that the pursuit of him on charges of issuing a threat be suspended and all charges dropped.

Foreign Minister Returns From UN Session

NC0810201495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his accompanying delegation returned to Beirut from New York via Paris tonight, after heading the Lebanese delegation to the UN General Assembly session and delivering Lebanon's speech.

Reportage on Continued Fighting in South

Amal Group Attacks Israeli Post

NC0710130695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of Resistance fighters attacked the occupation forces in Tuhrah at dawn today.

The Resistance men clashed with the Israelis manning the position for 10 minutes. Casualties were inflicted on the Israelis.

The Amal Movement, which claimed responsibility, said one of its groups bombarded an enemy troop concentration on the al-'Ayshiyah road. The movement said the group returned safely to base.

Israelis Shell; SLA Advance Foiled

NC0810090895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist aggression against south Lebanon continued from last night until this morning. The Israelis directed artillery fire at Habbush, the al-Tasah basin, and al-Jabal al-Rafi'. The Israelis also shelled the Lebanese army's derelict barracks in al-Nabatiyah, Kafr Rumman, and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and raked various areas in the south.

Our correspondent Samir 'Alamah reports:

[Begin 'Alamah recording] The Zionist forces last night renewed their aggression against villages in the south. The Israeli forces in Shihin directed 60-mm mortar fire at nearby valleys at 2100 yesterday. At 2200 Zionist gunboats cruised the coast off al-Qulaylah, south of Tyre. The Israelis pounded the area between Qabrikha and Majdal Silm from artillery positions in al-Tayyibah.

The Israeli artillery emplacements in Muhaybib shelled the outskirts of Majdal Silm and the area between Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Mazra'at al-Hamra'. The enemy forces also pounded the Wadi al-Saluqi with heavy phosphorous shells. At 2220 the enemy forces in al-Zaffatah opened 155-mm fire at the al-Litani River basin and fired 30 155-mm shells at the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights. At 2300 the Israeli forces in al-Suwayda' directed 81-mm shells at the Habbush River basin and raked the area with heavy machine guns. The Israelis directed 155-mm shells at the Lebanese army's derelict barracks. The sporadic shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah continued throughout the night.

The Islamic Resistance fighters continued their struggle, showing an ability to repulse Zionist attacks. Islamic Resistance fighters yesterday foiled an attempt by a Lahdist force [South Lebanese Army, SLA] to advance on Sribbin from the vicinity of Bayt Lif. The fire support unit used appropriate weapons against the SLA force and stopped its advance. [end recording]

Further on Israeli Shelling

NC0910062395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tyre reported a short time ago that the occupation troops at 0600 today shelled the outskirts of Frun, al-Ghanduriyah, Wadi al-Hujayr, the al-Litani River basin, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr with 82-mm mortar fire. Retaliating, Resistance fighters pounded the 'Alman position, scoring direct hits.

From al-Nabatiyah the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent reports that since 0630 this morning the occupation troops have been shelling the deserted army barracks in al-Nabatiyah in addition to the outskirts of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah.

3 Israelis Killed in 'Resistance' Operation

NC0910203095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In retaliation against the repeated Israeli assaults on peaceable villages and towns in the south and western al-Biqa', an Islamic Resistance group detonated an explosive device on the al-Tayyibah road this evening while two Israeli enemy patrols were passing. One vehicle received a direct hit and another was damaged. Three Israeli troops were killed in the operation.

Security sources in the south said that the resistance fired 12 rockets on the Marj 'Uyun area this evening. The Israeli enemy forces raked Wadi al-Hujayr and the periphery of Frun and al-Ghanduriyah with 12.7-mm machine-gun fire. They also shelled Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, and Tulin in western al-Biqa' from their positions in Tallusah.

Enemy helicopters are now overflying the western sector of the border area in the south.

Hizballah Radio on Killing

NC1010071195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday the south was the scene of significant developments represented in heroic operations carried out by the heroes of the Islamic Resistance. The operations left several enemy troops and Agents [South Lebanese Army, SLA] dead or wounded. The Resistance fighters' operations forced the Zionists and the SLA to abandon their positions. The last of these positions to be vacated is Bayt Yahun, which has become a trap for senior Agents.

Our correspondent Samir 'Alami had the following to add:

[Begin 'Alami recording] The Islamic Resistance carried out a daring operation on the al-Tayyibah road last night. Islamic Resistance sources said the group of martyr 'Ali Yasin detonated an explosive charge while an occupation forces' mechanized patrol was passing on the al-Tayyibah road. Three Zionists were killed, one vehicle received a direct hit, and another vehicle was damaged in the blast.

Elsewhere, another Islamic Resistance group spotted an enemy troop concentration at the 'Alman position. The Resistance group attacked the position with the appropriate weapons, scoring direct hits. Columns of black smoke were seen rising from the targeted position. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Israeli Gunboat Intercepts Fishing Boats

NC1010092495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces bombarded the areas of Qabrikha, Majdal Slim, and Tulin in the central sector from their posts in Muhaybib and al-Tayyibah last night.

An Israeli gunboat intercepted fishing boats south of Tyre this morning. The Israeli boat fired bursts of gunfire at the coast.

Qabalan Urges Commando Presence on 'Front Lines'

NC0810155195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has called for implementing the al-Ta'if Accord to abolish political sectarianism and make Lebanon one electoral constituency.

He stressed the need to form a commando squad on the front lines for military operations to be ready to liberate the south and repulse aggressions. Qabalan was addressing the Amal Movement's annual ceremony in al-Nabatiyah marking the 7th anniversary of the martyrdom of its leaders.

In the meantime, extreme caution prevails in several areas in the western and central sectors, namely in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The Israeli occupation forces artillery emplacement in Muhaybib shelled the outskirts of Majdal Silm and Qabrikha towns and Wadi al- Saluqi with 155-mm rounds.

The enemy radio acknowledged that a lahd militia [South Lebanese Army] agent suffered injuries when an explosive charge went off as a Lahd patrol passed by the Tallusah village in the western sector.

Attacks, ICRC Visit to al-Khiyam Prison Viewed

NC0810181995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA] sources said one of their members suffered injuries in a Hizballah operation. The source clarified that an explosive charge went off at 1300 today when a Lahdist patrol passed on the Tallusah Road in the central sector.

Hizballah has claimed responsibility for the operation in a statement issued in Beirut, affirming that the Lahdist patrol suffered many casualties.

Since 1820 today, Mazra'at al-Hamra' and the woods of Arnun and Yuhmur towns have been coming under concentrated Israeli bombardment originating from Qal'at al-Shaqif. The shelling coincided with large-caliber machine-gun fire from the opposing positions.

The Lahd forces announced that they will allow the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to visit al-Khiyam prison in the south, as of tomorrow, for the first time since the prison was built in 1984. A statement issued by the Lahd forces said they will permit Red Cross representatives to visit al-Khiyam prison regularly anytime they wish to inspect the detainees' condition and talk with them privately.

Further on ICRC Visit

NC0910124195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] this morning entered al-Khiyam Prison for the first time since it was established by the Israeli occupation troops in 1984. An AFP correspondent reports that at 0900 today two ICRC vehicles entered the prison, where approximately 250 detainees, mostly Lebanese, are detained without trial. Some of the detainees have been there for over 10 years.

Several humanitarian organizations have deplored the conditions at the prison, which was built in an old Lebanese army barracks, and the torture to which the detainees are subjected during questioning.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1226 GMT on 9 October adds the following: "'A prisoners' support group said the visit — the first by a humanitarian organisation since the jail was opened in 1984 — should be followed by the release of some 75 seriously ill detainees. During the visit the delegates will assess the detainees' treatment and their material and psychological conditions of detention,' the ICRC said in a statement. It said its 'standard working conditions' included the right to be able to repeat its visits as well as to see all the detainees in private. 'The ICRC is expected to make daily visits to the prison this week and spend up to five hours inside the compound,' an SLA spokesman said. Muhammad Safah, an ex—prisoner who heads the support committee for detainees, said he hoped the visit would be followed by the 'transfer of all sick prisoners, a visit by an international medical team and the start of an investigation into the torture of prisoners.' 'The al—Khiyam prison should then be closed and all the prisoners released,' he said. According to Safah, some 75 prisoners suffer from various illnesses, including lung and heart problems, while 14 others have died 'as a result of torture' since the jail opened. The SLA allowed the ICRC to organise visits by relatives to the prisoners in January for the first time in three years.

Al-Khiyam is located across the border from Israel, which has around 1,000 troops deployed in the security zone."]

Syrian Naval Vessel Arrives in Beirut Port

NC0510125595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1130 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of existing cooperation and coordination between the Syrian Armed Forces and the Lebanese Army, a Syrian naval training vessel arrived at Beirut port two days ago.

Commodore Alberto Ghurayyib, commander of the Lebanese Naval Forces, and other officers were at the port to receive it. Discussions held with the vessel's commander dealt with means of coordination between the Lebanese and Syrian naval forces.

King Husayn-'Arafat-Peres Alliance Viewed

NC0710185395 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic
26 September 95 p 1

[Article by Charles Ayyub: "Saddam-'Arafat-Husayn, an Alliance for Ruining the Cause"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Day after day it becomes evident how Saddam Husayn dragged Iraq into the peril of the Kuwait war with U.S. deception. The war has shown that he lacks farsightedness and that he is controlled by whims of superficial power far removed from the pan-Arab cause.

Day after day we begin to ask why Yasir 'Arafat, once an ardent supporter of Saddam's wars, is today spending his time with Peres and Rabin in Washington.

Every Arab citizen is bound to ask how 'Arafat, who used to attack the United States daily, is today Washington's permanent guest. We are all bound to wonder how 'Arafat, who used to behave in Beirut without respect for the Lebanese State's law, is today the first one concerned about Israeli law.

We also wonder about this relationship between 'Arafat and Peres that has been going on for years and how 'Arafat became the Israeli leaders' ally against Damascus and Lebanon.

We ask about 'Arafat's silence about Israeli raids on southern Lebanon as he sits in the lap of Israeli leaders at the expense of his Palestinian people. We inquire about King Husayn, the descendent of the Hashemites, who now spends his time in his palace in al-'Aqabah with Rabin and on his yacht with Peres. We ask why King Husayn, who was Saddam Husayn's first supporter, today calls for changing the situation in Iraq and receives Saddam's son-in-law as a hero.

We ask why King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat ferociously led the battle against the United States during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and why they are today spending almost most of their time between Israel and Washington.

King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat have become the Israeli spearhead in the heart of the Arab world. They have turned into advocates for and allies of Rabin and Peres while Damascus and Beirut are fighting the war of steadfastness and preservation of pan-Arab rights.

Today the Arabs stand and testify that it is al-Asad's Syria which is defending pan-Arab rights and clinging to international legitimacy and its resolutions. 'Arafat tramples over these resolutions that impose on Israel to withdraw from the West bank by signing with Peres a document ceding this dear part of Palestine.

After what happened in the past, experience shows that al-Asad's Syria is the one which is preserving national and pan-Arab rights. Experience has also shown that the Saddam-'Arafat-Husayn alliance serves Israel, sometime through direct agentry and at other times by ignorance and adventure mania.

Al-Shihabi: 'War Could Break' Out With Israel

*NC0610171895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1630 GMT 6 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi has warned that the peace efforts will be a waste of time if Israel continues to submit demands that conflict with Syria's national security. He noted that the door of struggle between the Arabs and Israel remains opens as long Israel rejects the principle of withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

General al-Shihabi said Israel wants to solve the problem in its own way by clinging to its occupation of Arab lands, erasing the Arab people's legitimate rights, and concluding partial and fragile agreements that do not secure a solid base for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In a press interview, General al-Shihabi warned that a new war with Israel could break out. He affirmed that Syria is determined to increase its defense capabilities.

Further on al-Shihabi Comments

*NC0610181395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 6 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi has stated that Israel's stance will lead to the escalation of its aggression in the region. It will also keep the region in a state of permanent tension, instability, and insecurity and will increase the possibilities of a new war.

In an interview with the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-BAYAN, al-Shihabi said Syria has the right to search for all methods and means to enhance its defense capabilities. He added: We will not do anything that does not serve Syria's and the Arab nation's interests and we will not accept anything that serves others and not Syria.

Syrian Envoy Views Talks With Israel

*TA0510172795 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic
2 Oct 95 p 3*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-MANAR Office — 'Isa Darwish, the Syrian ambassador in Egypt, has accused Israel of tampering with the peace process on the various negotiating tracks. He said that Israel has managed to drag the Arab parties into unilateral negotiations and to implement the Israeli Likud-Labor policy of fragmenting the negotiating process and avoiding collective negotiations.

The Syrian ambassador affirmed that what Israel is demanding from Syria involves much more than the occupation of the Golan. He noted the existence of repeated Israeli attempts to deviate from Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to inject other unnecessary dimensions into the Syrian-Israeli talks in general.

Ambassador 'Isa Darwish said that in its talks with Syria, Israel is insisting on introducing new concepts to security, water, and land. He explained that in the first and second round of talks between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff, Israel demanded that Syria affirm and ratify the new Israeli security concept. Darwish described the Israeli security concept as one of mobile borders similar to the concepts that prevailed in the Arab-Israeli conflict in the 50's and 60's when Israel used to declare that its borders were located wherever the Israeli army stood. Now, Israel has changed this approach. In its talks with Syria, it has sought to link Israeli security to controlling important heights in the Golan under the pretext of early warning. Moreover, Israel has changed the weapons concept, whereby it has given conventional weapons a strategic status, which means interference in Syrian sovereignty. Israel has called for the disarming of the Syrian Army and its future removal from the areas extending from the 4 June 1967 borders to the Syrian capital.

The Syrian ambassador to Cairo stressed that the Israeli conditions on the Syrian track were not confined to these demands, but extended to interference in determining and formulating future Syrian relations with neighboring Arab states, such as relations with Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians. The ambassador said that Israel has also called for defining the shape of Syria's relations with Iraq in the event that the Iraqi regime is changed. It also demanded a clarification of the religious aspect of Syria's relations as well as of Syria's future relations with Iran and the Islamic movements.

The Syrian ambassador noted that the Israeli conditions have extended to the water resources in the region and the water reserves in the Golan, which supply the West Bank and Palestine as a whole. This is something that cannot be fulfilled and is regarded as a deviation from Security Council Resolution 242 and an injection of security concepts that interfere with sovereignty itself.

The Syrian ambassador in Cairo attributed the Israeli intransigence in the peace talks to the double standards that the U.S. Administration applies to the negotiating parties and to the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in general. He said that the U.S. Administration has not dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict as it has with other international conflicts. He said: There is still a fundamental difference in the concept of peace with regard to the two parties (the Arabs and the Israelis).

Darwish added that in the summit conferences, the Arab states used to stress that the peace they sought was a just and comprehensive peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied after 1967 and which forbid Israel from keeping any part of these territories, including Jerusalem.

On the other hand, 'Isa Darwish said that there was a U.S. attempt and a "Shamirian" intransigence meant to fragment Arab positions and demands. Regrettably, the disagreement began in Madrid. Whereas all the Arabs wanted an international reference point for the talks, the United States shifted in favor of Israel's viewpoint and refused to allow the United Nations, other parties active in the Security Council, and the European Union to participate in the talks.

The Syrian ambassador alluded to the U.S. Administration's evasion regarding giving clear and categorical commitments on Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories. He said: During nine meetings with former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and in the buildup to the Madrid conference, Syria asked for a written document and a written U.S. commitment calling for Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories. Baker, however, said to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad: We commit ourselves morally, but we cannot put that in writing because if we do so there would be no need for this conference.

The Syrian ambassador warned of Israel's encroachment upon the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He said: We still view the Palestinian problem as the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We believe that undermining the rights of the Arab Palestinian people and preventing them from establishing their state and spreading their sovereignty over their land will lead to the destruction of peace and the continuation of the conflict. He stressed how important it is that the peace be just, comprehensive, and stable and that Israel become aware of this.

The Syrian ambassador criticized the United States' pro-Israeli bias on the issue of nuclear weapons. He also accused the U.S. Administration of acting to shift the strategic balance in the region in Israel's favor. He said: The United States' insistence on pressuring the region's countries to join while excluding Israel from joining the renewed Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty has upset the strategic balance in the region.

The Syrian ambassador to Cairo added that the United States continues to ignore the feelings of the Arabs on both the official and popular levels and to embrace Israel, which is the biggest beneficiary of the peace process, despite the fact that the Arab states have offered whatever they can in order to promote the peace.

The Syrian ambassador accused the United States of trying to reap the benefits of peace before its achievement. He noted that the U.S. Administration has forced the Arabs to participate in the multilateral committees in the belief that this would contribute to the confidence-building measures between Israel and the Arab countries and advance the peace process. Ambassador Darwish added that the majority of Arab states have participated in the multilateral talks and in the environment, development, arms, and other committees, but that Israel has become inflexible and is striving to monopolize all development projects and place the region under its hegemony and control while refusing to give up weapons of mass destruction.

Ambassador 'Isa Darwish said: This Israeli position was confirmed at the Rabat summit, and perhaps it will also be confirmed at the Amman economic summit which will be held in October. He said that there is a flaw that is threatening the peace process because of inequality between the negotiating parties. He added: It is our duty to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

He called for the coordination of Arab positions and efforts to safeguard legitimate Arab rights.

Al-Shar' Meets With Ross, Baker in Washington

JN0610200595 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Dennis Ross, coordinator of the Middle East peace process; Mark Parris, White House adviser on Middle East affairs; and Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador in Damascus, at his residence in Washington this morning. The meeting was attended by Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador in Washington.

Talks dealt with the peace process and ways to make progress in security arrangements in accordance with the principles of equality [al-musawah], reciprocity [al-taqabul], and balance [al- tawazun].

Al-Shar' also met with James Baker, former U.S. secretary of state, at his residence. Baker handed al-Shar' a copy of his book which was issued a few days ago as a present to President Hafiz al- Asad.

During the meeting, they discussed the recent developments of the peace process.

Al-Shar' on Meetings

JN0610210995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1945 GMT 6 Oct 95

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At his meeting with the correspondents of Arab newspapers, televisions, and radios, al-Shar' spoke about the two days of intensive talks he held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the U.S. peace team. He said that, although the talks covered several issues related to developments in the region and the international situation, the peace process and what it has produced so far consumed most of the time of these talks.

Al-Shar' said: We agreed to continue contacts in the next few weeks to find the best formulas for resuming the peace process on the Syrian track in a manner that prevents the recurrence of the previous stalemate or misunderstanding. I can say that I am satisfied with the results of these discussions that I held with U.S. officials. These talks were based on a joint concern to advance the peace process with the aim of reaching results and not to have negotiations for the sake of negotiation, and to have results that are in line with international legitimacy and the land- for-peace principle and the bases of the peace process as launched in Madrid.

Al-Shar' was asked: Some Arabs have proceeded from defective agreements, how is this reflected in Syrian-Arab relations?

The minister replied: The Arabs feel that the Syrian position is the right one because it is based on rights, justice, resolutions of international legitimacy, and the bases of the peace process. This position is the real alternative for he who searches for an alternative. We believe that the separate agreements sought by some parties over the past years after the Madrid conference caused them to lose and did not affect Syria. These agreements did not force Syria to relinquish any of its principled positions. We repeatedly said, and even before the separate agreements, that these agreements are not in the interest of these parties, comprehensive peace, and stability in the region. We leave the judgment on these agreements to the Arab people everywhere to analyze and assess.

Asked if any arrangements were made between Christopher and Damascus, the foreign minister said: We are now looking for a new formula to resume the negotiations on the Syrian track. This formula does not at all seek to make the negotiations reach a deadlock or to use them as tactics to win time. We have made it clear to U.S. officials that Syria's adherence to the principles of the peace process and to a complete withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon, and the establishment of reciprocal [mutaqabilah], mutual [mutabadalah], and equal [mutasawiyah] arrangements on both sides of the 4 June lines in accordance with the framework of understanding, which was reached and announced by Christopher last June.

The foreign minister was asked: Yesterday, you said that it was agreed in June that monitoring should be only from the air. Did Israel accept this arrangement? Al-Shar' said: Our position is clear. We do not agree at all to ground early warning stations because their presence symbolizes occupation on the one hand, and runs counter to the complete withdrawal and the framework of understanding reached among the three parties on the principles and objectives of the security arrangements on the other.

Asked how the negotiations can resume, either through the ambassadors or through a new tour by Dennis Ross or Secretary Christopher, al-Shar' said: I have said that contacts will continue between the United States and Syria. Each of these alternatives is possible. But what is important is to boost the peace process and resume the negotiations to achieve the objective of the peace process.

The foreign minister was asked: Does Syria feel that it is under compelling pressure to make progress in the peace process before the forthcoming U.S. presidential elections, al-Shar' said: It is now clear to everybody that Syria does not take any pressure into consideration to arrive at a just and comprehensive peace. This is because the arrival at such a peace and establishing genuine security and stability in the Middle East is more important than any pressure, to which any Arab party may be subjected. If the pressure is going to undermine all the objectives which the Arab nation is aspiring for, then it is unacceptable and must be denounced. However, encouraging parties to arrive at a just and comprehensive peace is a desirable thing to do.

Asked about the fact that certain Arab newspapers said in analyses that Syria will not stand idly by at the attempts and endeavors by certain states to normalize relations, the foreign minister said: There is no change in the Syrian position. I have made this position clear in my speech to the UN General Assembly three days ago. We strongly believe that no one can isolate Syria, regardless of the methods that may be used against it. Experience teaches those who may try to exert such pressure will not succeed. Syria cannot by itself achieve the kind of peace it wants in the region, but it can prevent the imposition of the kind of peace which we do not believe in because it is remote from, or violates the principles of the peace process.

A journalist asked: King Husayn is promoting the idea of a union between Jordan and Iraq, and between Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza. Also, the Syrian-Turkish dispute over the Euphrates waters is threatening the region. Where does Syria stand on these issues?

The foreign minister said: I cannot say there is tension in relations between Syria and Turkey. There is a serious dialogue. I met with the Turkish foreign minister last month. Also, Syria has voiced its great concern for Iraq's unity in terms of people and territory, and its rejection of any attempts to fragment and dismember Iraq. We are surprised to see some Arabs talking about three parts of Iraq — northern, central, and southern. Such an argument harms the Arab nation's interest and may give the impression that they wish to fragment Iraq. This will not be in their interest or the Arab nation's interest. If Iraq is turned into a federation, no one can control what will happen after that. We have stated this position to everyone concerned.

Asked about Syria's position on the Amman [economic] summit and if it can be considered an attempt to pressure Syria, al-Shar' said: It is not necessarily a pressure tool. We believe that the Amman conference will not serve the interest of the Arab nation. Instead, it will primarily serve Israel's interest and will allow it to make gains at the expense of the Arab interests and rights.

Washington Talks Viewed

JN0810193695 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 8 Oct (SANA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in its commentary today that Washington talks between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. officials have once again reflected the credibility and seriousness of the Syrian position vis-a-vis the peace process. The paper notes the talks also reiterated to the entire world that Syria would not be interested in the current situation and standstill if it had not been targeted by them.

The paper adds: Syria has not done what others did; that is, it did not close the door to the political process despite the pressures and provocations frequently used to compel it to do this. However, Syria did not block this process. It gave many opportunities to the U.S. mediator and sponsor so the latter could carry out its pledges and obligations. Syria did this out of its belief that peace requires sacrifice and patience, but not infinitely, and not at the expense of dignity and land — of which no single iota can be bargained.

The newspaper goes on to say: It has become clear to all that Israel's rulers are using the peace process to impose their peace and dictate their own conditions and contain, overlook, and even drop resolutions of international legitimacy. Given the absence of firm international deterrence and pressure, they do not feel that they are concerned about Madrid and the U.S. initiative. This has led to the current strained and complicated situation.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH states: The U.S.-Syrian talks aimed to put things in their proper context and to seek the best formulas for resuming the negotiating process on the Syrian track. What the U.S. Administration and U.S. peace team have heard regarding the firm and principled Syrian position is a message which Israel should study and read very well. Israel must realize that there will be no peace without the return of the Golan and southern Lebanon in full.

Egypt's Mubarak Arrives, Meets President al-Asad

JN1010110795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. President al-Asad led the group meeting Mubarak at Damascus International Airport, including Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, deputy prime ministers, ministers, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

President al-Asad and his guest then went by official motorcade from Damascus International Airport to the People's Palace.

President Mubarak is accompanied by an official delegation that includes Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs.

After the two presidents arrived at the People's Palace, they held a meeting that was attended by Vice President Mashariqah, Prime Minister al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Information Minister Muhammad Salman, the official delegation accompanying President Mubarak, and Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus Hamud 'Ali Shukri.

The two presidents then held a closed meeting.

Damascus Reportedly Restricts Palestinian Leaders

JN0710150895 Amman AL-MASHRIQ in Arabic 9-15 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on reports that Washington issued an ultimatum to Syria against the backdrop of its hosting Palestinian Islamic opposition figures, particularly in Damascus, a well-informed Palestinian source said Syrian security authorities received instructions from the political leadership to prevent these leaders from appearing in public.

The security authorities informed the Palestinian officials not to appear in public. As a result of this, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, did not attend a seminar in al-Yarmuk camp on the second anniversary of the Oslo agreement. The Hamas leaders were also asked to avoid public appearances and to restrict these appearances to Muhammad Mustafa, the Hamas representative in Damascus.

TV Broadcasts War Anniversary Rally

JN0610175895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic at 1500 GMT on 6 October links with Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic to carry live the proceedings of a speech rally held at Damascus University Auditorium to mark the 22d anniversary of the October 1973 War.

Audio, video reception are fair.

Seen present on the podium are Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; Prime Minister Mahmud al- Zu'bi; People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah; 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general; Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Ba'th Party; and others.

The master of ceremonies asks the audience to observe a one- minute silence in honor of the martyrs. The Syrian national anthem is then played.

At 1507 GMT, Misbah Baghdadi, president of the Executive Bureau of the Teacher's Association, delivers a speech on behalf of the trade unions and professional associations. Baghdadi says that the Arabs took the initiative for the first time in the October War to score a triumph over the "Zionist enemy" on the Syrian and Egyptian fronts. The war, he says, also destroyed the myth of the invincible Israeli army. He also notes the strong domestic front which helped win the war. He says Syria is determined to achieve just and comprehensive peace. Baghdadi pledges that the professional associations and trade unions will continue to work hard on translating the tasks and values they were taught by the Ba'th Party and President Hafiz al-Asad into action. He concludes his speech by extending greetings and congratulations on this occasion to President al-Asad. He also extends greetings to the Armed Forces, the Ba'th party, and the National Progressive Front. Baghdadi concludes his speech at 1520 GMT.

At 1520 GMT, poet Najm-al-Din Salih reads verses of poetry on the occasion, noting the bravery and contribution of the Armed Forces and Israel's rejection of genuine peace. He concludes at 1531 GMT.

At 1532 GMT, Daniyal Ni'mah, member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front, delivers a speech on behalf of the National Progressive Front and the Syrian Communist Party. Ni'mah refers to the major transformations brought about by the Corrective Movement, led by President al-Asad, in Syria. He says the victory of the 1973 War is a major event in the Arab nation's history and one of the most legitimate victories in history. That event, he says, restored confidence and glory to the Arab nation.

Ni'mah adds that the Arabs were about to win their absolute victory in that war if it were not for blunders by some Arabs and for the United States, which intervened to help its ally Israel. He notes that certain quarters are not working seriously to implement the UN resolutions that pertain to Israel, unlike the case with the resolutions that pertain to other countries, Libya for example.

Ni'mah also notes that Israel wants the Arabs to open their doors and to establish the Middle East market to realize its expansionist goals. He also says that Syria has not ceased its struggle to achieve peace and security in the region and that it is determined to achieve just, comprehensive, and honorable peace, and not the peace of submission. Ni'mah further urges all Arabs to support Syria's position. He concludes his speech at 1558 GMT.

At 1600 GMT, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, who is deputizing for President Hafiz al-Asad, begins to speak. He starts by saying the October War was a qualitative step in the struggle to regain the occupied territory and to restore rights. He extends greetings to the audience on this occasion and notes the lessons which the present generation must learn from that war. Al-Ahmar notes the wisdom of President Hafiz al-Asad which helped win victory in that war. He also notes the heroism of the Armed Forces.

Al-Ahmar says that one of the most important lessons of the October War is the emphasis it placed on the values of sacrifice and martyrdom, which are part of Arab heritage. He says Israel tried to undermine the results of that war by fabricating inter-Arab conflicts. The victory in the October War, he adds, was also the result of the persistent efforts by the leader and the party to establish national unity.

Al-Ahmar adds that the victory of the October War destroyed the myth of the invincible Israeli Army. That victory, he goes on, created a militant climate in which despair was something of the past. Under such a climate, he says, the Lebanese people defeated their enemies and overcame the consequences of their civil war, with an unlimited support from Syria. And under such a climate, the Palestinian intifadah was launched.

At 1617 GMT, al-Ahmar turns to the peace process and Syria's position. He says that "the battle of peace, which we have been waging since the Madrid conference and which is aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace, is still far from achieving its goals."

He adds: "Events, developments, and all the negotiations that were held outside the rules of the peace process have proven that partial and unilateral solutions epitomized by the Oslo agreements, Wadi al-'Arabah, and Taba only benefit the interests of the aggressor at the expense of the rights of the victim, who was given inalienable rights by international legitimacy. As a result, those who have departed from Arab coordination and who are involved in the Israeli policy have relinquished these rights."

Al-Ahmar adds: "It has become clear to all that only one type of peace can be achieved in the region; that is, the just and comprehensive peace which was emphasized by the great Arab leader President Hafiz al-Asad. This peace requires removing all the traces of the 1967 aggression and occupation. This means full withdrawal of the aggressors from all of the Golan Heights back to 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon and all occupied Arab lands in implementation of UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which were the foundations of the peace process in the first place."

He attacks Israel for stockpiling weapons of mass destruction, saying he who seeks peace does not stockpile nuclear weapons.

Al-Ahmar concludes his speech by stressing that the struggle for Arab unity will continue. He extends greetings to the Syrian Army and people and to President Hafiz al-Asad. He concludes his speech at 1632 GMT.

At 1633 GMT, the master of ceremonies asks the audience to sing the Ba'th Party anthem. The live relay ends at 1636 GMT.

Audio, video reception throughout is fair.

Jordan Bureau is excerpting 'Abdallah al-Ahmar's 32-minute speech in three takes for routine filing to clear bureau before COB at 2200 GMT on 6 October. No further processing planned for other speakers.

Ba'th Party Official Gives Oct War Anniversary Speech

JN0610185395 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, on the 22d anniversary of the 1973 October war; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Comrades, strugglers throughout our great Arab homeland, and esteemed audience: The October war of liberation, whose 22d anniversary we are now marking, is rightfully a qualitative step in our struggle to liberate the occupied Arab land and to regain the usurped rights of our nation. [passage omitted]

Comrades, the battle of peace, which we have been waging since the Madrid conference and which is aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace, is still far from achieving its goals, although four years have elapsed since its beginning. This is because of Israel's intransigent positions, which are far from providing the requirements of just and comprehensive peace.

Israel, which was possessed by arrogance and self-conceit before the October war of liberation, which went too far in its strategies of aggression and expansion, and which tried to distort the image of the Arabs in the world, has discovered, as well as the whole world, that it is impossible to impose surrender on the Arabs. The Arabs have existed on this land since the dawn of history and they are the major and the first reality in the region. Through that liberation war, they were able to reveal their reality.

Israel will not be able to do what the successive forces of invasion have failed to do against the Arab existence. Israel was forced to enter the peace process as a result of the changes and developments that have occurred in the region and the world. However, it tried from the beginning and is still trying to derail the peace process from its goals that were defined during the Madrid conference. It is also trying to use the negotiations to impose the Israeli concept of peace, which is based on achieving Israel's ambitions and interests at the expense of the Arabs' lands and rights. By singling out each Arab party, Israel was able to draw some Arab parties into unilateral solutions and partial settlements to achieve its goals without considering the Arabs' rights.

Events, developments, and all the negotiations that were held outside the rules of the peace process have proven that partial and unilateral solutions epitomized by the Oslo agreements, Wadi al- 'Arabah, and Taba only benefit the interests of the aggressor at the expense of the rights of the victim, who was given inalienable rights by international legitimacy. As a result, those who have departed from Arab coordination and who are involved in the Israeli policy have relinquished these rights and are obliged to offer perpetual concessions to the Israeli occupier and to move step by step toward a total relinquishment of the inalienable rights of their people.

Israel's demands are endless, and if the Arabs offer one concession, they will fall into a series of concessions. Those who have slipped into that abyss are oppressing their masses, who are waging a legitimate struggle against the Israeli occupation. By doing this, they are carrying out the duty of the occupation soldiers and are entrenching the results of the occupation and aggression on land in conflict with the interests of the people, the nation, and the logic and nature of matters.

Comrades, Arab masses: Commitment and adherence to the spirit of the October victory and to the results of the October victory helped Syria of al-Asad embody the nation's interests, defend its rights, and adhere to the constants and principles of the peace process, which were agreed upon in Madrid and which are based on international legitimacy and the implementation of its relevant resolutions.

It has become clear to all concerned about the accomplishment of peace that peace cannot be achieved without Syria. Syria will never be a party to any peace that does not ensure full withdrawal from its lands back to 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon, does not restore its rights, and prejudices its sovereignty over its lands. Syria emphasizes today, as it always has, its compliance with the peace process based on the constants from which it was launched. Syria would not have emphasized this fact had it not adhered to the constants of the peace process and the rights of Arabs as stipulated by international legitimacy and had it not known how to defend these rights through negotiations as it defended them in the battlefields.

It has become clear to all that only one type of peace can be achieved in the region; that is, the just and comprehensive peace which was emphasized by the great Arab leader President Hafiz al-Asad. This peace requires removing all the traces of the 1967 aggression and occupation. This means full withdrawal of the aggressors from all of the Golan Heights back to 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon and all occupied Arab lands in implementation of UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which were the foundations of the peace process in the first place. After full withdrawal from all of the Golan and southern Lebanon, peace should be equitable and balanced [mutakafi' wa mutawazin] and should not prejudice Syria's sovereignty over its territory.

Comrades: These are the constant principles of peace. These principles cannot change because any change in them entails a change in the logic and essence of peace. This cannot be done or persist as long as Arabs live on this earth and as long as the sun of their culture and civilization shines on their world. Israel is still holding fast to the strategy of intransigence. It seeks to impose its hostile perception of peace — a perception that would enable it to retain the land, press ahead with settlement activity, and continue to implement the policy of suppression and terrorism against those who exercise their legitimate right to confront the occupation. This perception and the behavior linked to it aim to blow up the peace process from within and impose capitulation on Arabs. If this was impossible in the past, it would be more than impossible in the present time, because it contradicts genuine peace and the will of the Arab nation. It also contradicts the aspirations of the people of the region for a future that would bring about development, free progress, and prosperity. Advocating a new Middle East according to the Israeli perception and the Israeli efforts to achieve economic, political, and cultural hegemony of the region means dividing the Arabs and subjecting them to Israel's will. This will lead to a stage in which the presence of all Arabs on this earth is threatened.

Israel's insistence on heaping nuclear weapons and its refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is a great threat to the security of the region and the world. This confirms Israel's aggressive intentions and its disavowal of the logic and nature of peace. Whoever seeks peace does not pile up nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and does not devote all its efforts and policies to entrench the occupation of the lands of others and build settlements therein.

Comrades: The dangers of partial deals are not limited only to the relinquishment of the Arabs' rights and interests and to the achievement of Israel's aggressive interests, but they also help prepare the ground for Israel to implement its scheme to impose its hegemony over the Arab region through various methods, such as cooperation conferences and the multilateral talks, which take place despite the fact that the occupation of Arab territory continues. These talks aim at diverting the attention of the Arabs and the world from this occupation to other issues.

The partial deals also weaken the attempts to restore Arab solidarity. They also weaken the joint Arab institutions and harm the pan-Arab call, which constitutes the nation's collective entity.

These difficulties and obstacles facing the Arab liberation movement, which is basically based on the pan-Arab concepts, must be confronted with further adherence to the essence of the single Arab existence and to the Arab nation's common objectives. Hope grows out of difficult circumstances. However, this hope must be based on an understanding of these circumstances and knowing the ways to resolve them and move toward better circumstances.

Comrades: Arab unity remains the supreme goal of every genuine Arab struggle. The events that faced the Arabs, both in the past and present, confirm that unity is their only way out, the basis for their strength, and the foundation for their effective contribution in the march of humanity toward a better future. Therefore, the Ba'th Party placed unity on the top of its priorities. The masses believed that unity is the path through which the Arabs can enter to achieve their eternal message, the message of civilization and peace. There must come a time in which the joint Arab action will rise to a higher level to create the climate needed to renew the march of unionist action. Action must be strengthened and the methods of struggle must be improved to achieve that goal.

Our party and Syria will remain the solid base for that great hope of building a bright Arab future. A nation led by the great leader, President Hafiz al-Asad [applause] with wisdom and courage, can move only toward the achievement of liberation and victory.

Greetings to the souls of October War martyrs and to their living memory. [applause]

Greetings to our valiant Armed Forces, the protectors of the homeland which are raising the banner of Arabism. [applause]

Greetings to the Egyptian Arab Armed Forces, our great partners in making the October victory. [applause]

Greetings to all the masses of the people in Syria and Egypt who made the domestic front the starting point and the foundation for arriving at the October victory. [applause]

Greetings to the Arab strugglers in all states, from the Ocean to the Gulf, and in all the states which helped achieve the October victory. [applause]

Greetings to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [chants and applause] — leaders, bodies, members, and militants. Through its struggle and sacrifices that party epitomized the Arabs' current state of affairs and played the major role in all their victories. [applause]

Greetings to the hero of the two October anniversaries, the Corrective Movement and the liberation war [applause], the wise leader, whose unique genius, wise leadership, and immeasurable courage played the most important role to achieve the October victory — struggler leader President Hafiz al-Asad. [chants and applause]

Press Urges U.S. To Adopt 'Decisive Stand'

JN0710094795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0608 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline: "Washington's Responsibility," TISHRIN stresses that the activation of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks requires an effective stand by the U.S. Administration to remove Israeli obstacles and implement the UN Security Council resolutions.

TISHRIN says Syria had expected the U.S. Administration to take action to have Israel withdraw its impossible demands, and to emphasize the need for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories. The paper says: The role of a full, fair, and honest partner, in addition to the U.S. commitments and pledges, the land-for-peace principle—which constitutes the basis of the U.S. peace initiative—and the UN Security Council resolutions adopted as the basis of the peace process, all require Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

TISHRIN adds: Since the Madrid conference, Israel has been trying to divert the peace process from its bases, objectives, and framework. Thus, it has signed a number of lame, partial agreements which have brought neither peace to the region nor the region closer to peace. Those agreements have deeply disappointed the Palestinian people in particular and the Arab people in general.

TISHRIN says: Not satisfied with this orientation, which contravenes the UN Security Council resolutions, Israel has tried to maintain its troops in the Golan under security pretexts. Meanwhile, it has intensified attacks on southern Lebanon and raised a number of problems on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Neither Syria nor Lebanon care to even discuss such problems, such as the early warning stations.

TISHRIN says that while offering a just, honorable, credible, firm, and durable peace, Syria expects Israel in return to withdraw fully to the 4 June 1967 lines without maintaining any part of the Golan under its occupation and control—something that contravenes the fundamentals of peace. Syria has frequently made it clear that the Golan is not subject to bargains, that not one iota of its soil will be relinquished, and that peace depends on the full and comprehensive removal of the Israeli occupation.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks definitely requires a fair stance by Washington. This stance should be in line with the peace process and its objectives, represented by comprehensive security and durable stability. It is common knowledge that Israel will continue the policy of maneuvering and procrastination, and will continue to put up hurdles in the face of the desired just peace, unless the United States, as the sponsor of the peace process, assumes its responsibility and adopt a decisive stand.

In a comment today under the headline "We Work for Peace," AL- THAWRAH says that the clear victory achieved in the glorious October 1973 war crowned exceptional efforts by unique leader Hafiz al-Asad. Those efforts were doubled under the al-Asad-led Corrective Movement. Then, in cooperation with sisterly Egypt, the Corrective Movement took it upon itself to wage that glorious war.

AL-THAWRAH explains that the Arabs achieved their greatest achievement in the October war, which left its mark on the Arab and international scene. Leader al-Asad, the paper says, made ready for that war all the appropriate objective circumstances, especially with respect to the consolidation of national unity and clearing the Arab atmosphere in preparation for effective Arab solidarity, which had a clear role in the achievement of the October victory. That effort drew international attention and convinced the world that Israel had usurped Arab rights and occupied Arab territories through aggression, and that the Arabs' territory must be restored in full.

AL-THAWRAH says: The October war of liberation, thanks to the change it effected in the international community, especially among the super- and influential powers, and the change it effected in public opinion, made the Arab-Israeli conflict among highest priorities of these powers and international blocs, especially the Nonaligned Movement and the Organization of African Unity.

AL-THAWRAH says that more than four years after the Madrid conference, Israel continues to maneuver and evade the bases of the Madrid conference, especially full withdrawal from the occupied territories, particularly the Golan and southern Lebanon, and the return to the 4 June 1967 lines. This is at a time when Syria is eager to achieve peace, given that peace is a strategic option, as commonly known.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH says: On this occasion, we address greetings of appreciation and respect to the maker of the October victory and the November Corrective Movement. We address similar greetings to our valiant army and righteous martyrs. On this occasion, too, we recall the address made by leader al-Asad on the eve of 6 October 1973 to the nation and the Armed Forces. At that time, he said: We are advocates of peace, and work for peace for our people and for all peoples of the world. We are defending ourselves to live in peace.

U.S. Role in Peace Process Viewed, Criticized

JN0910205895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1233 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: When Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was holding talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington on the ways to end the stalemate on the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks due to Israeli intransigence, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was addressing the Knesset, saying that he is opposed to withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, that Jerusalem's annexation is irreversible, that the settlements of the West Bank will remain intact, and that the Jordan Valley settlements will be annexed to Israel.

No doubt, these remarks by Rabin were apparently only a reiteration of the Israeli position which has halted the peace process and brought it to a complete standstill. Nonetheless, the timing of these remarks was meant to serve notice to the U.S. secretary of state that he need not return to the region to resume his efforts to activate the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Additionally, the statements made by Rabin constitute a flagrant defiance of the U.S. Administration, which has repeatedly underlined its eagerness to establish a genuine and just peace in accordance with the principle of exchanging territory for peace, given its pledge to play the role of a full and honest broker in the peace talks.

Rabin's statements betray a defiance of the United States. Worse yet, his defiance of the international community and refusal to subscribe to UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 are greater and more perilous. This clearly shows how far Israel has gone in its disregard for the international community and its wishes, as manifested in its efforts to jeopardize peace and security in this highly sensitive part of the world.

Israel's defiance of the United States is such that it is ridiculing and disregarding U.S. initiatives. Likewise, its defiance of the international community is such that it is ridiculing its resolutions, disregarding them, and viewing them as null and void and irrelevant. Given all this, the reluctance to curb Israel's intransigence and deter its perilous policies has become unreasonable and unacceptable. Such reluctance conflicts with the declared sincere desire to achieve a just, reasonable, and comprehensive peace.

It has become clear that Israel, given its makeup and hostile nature, cannot, of its own free will, head for any peaceful settlement that is not tailored to suit its own interests and that does not realize its expansionist ambitions. Had Israel ever entertained the notion of changing its concept of peace, Rabin would not have made the aforementioned statements at the Knesset. Rabin has deliberately sought to make his statements serve as a mine to torpedo any endeavor to activate the peace process, particularly if the ground rules of such an endeavor conflict with Israel's goals and peace concept.

Israel's purposes with regard to the peace it aims to force are extremely obvious. Nonetheless, we need answers to the following questions: Which Israel can the international community accept as a member? With which Israel can the United States maintain a special relationship? Can the international community and the United States accept a mutinous, rebellious, and defiant Israel that holds all laws, rules, and conventions in complete disregard? Shouldn't the international community and the United States pressure Israel into accepting a genuine peace away from belligerency and violence, the paranoia of military might, and expansionist ambitions?

It is only the United Nations and the U.S. Administration which can provide answers to these questions. Their answers to these questions will determine the future of peace in this region.

Authorities Reportedly Release Funds of Fatah

JN0710165095 Amman AL-MASHRIQ in Arabic 9-15 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Palestinian sources told AL- MASHRIQ that the Syrian authorities recently released funds belonging to Fatah-the Uprising that they had frozen approximately 10 years ago.

The sources said the funds, around $8 million, were deposited in a special account in the names of Samih Abu-Kuwayk, Qadri, and Nimr Salih, Abu-Salih, former members of the Fatah Central Committee, and that the decision to freeze the sum was made following their leaving the dissidents movement and the death of Abu-Salih.

Observers say the timing of the Syrian decision is an attempt by Damascus to prove that it still supports the opposition and to confirm that it continues to follow a course that is hostile to that of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian Authority.

Libya had transferred this sum within al-Qadhdhafi's plan to support those who broke away from Fatah and the PLO.

'Practical Alternatives' to Warning Stations Seen

JN0710153995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: When Israel stops placing obstacles and abandons maneuvering and deception to evade international legitimacy and its resolutions which are the crux of the U.S. initiative that adopted the principle of land for peace, when Israel does this, it can be said that the road is open for the peace efforts to bear fruits and to realize their objectives of driving the peace process to its aspired goal, which is just and comprehensive peace that restores land and rights to their owners and ensures the interests, dignity, and security and stability for all parties in the region and the world.

As for inciting a false atmosphere of optimism and searching for progress with the party that is not obstructing the peace process, it will only be a new waste of time and efforts, at which Israel has been skillful throughout the long peace process. So far, Israel did not show any seriousness in dealing with the bases of peace, the resolutions of international legitimacy, the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, and acceptance of the principle of equality [tasawi], equitability [takafu'], and parallelism [tawazi] in the security arrangements on the two sides of the 4 June 1967 line.

We note that at a time when the new Syrian-U.S. contacts were the focus of wide Arab and international attention, the Israeli side showed many negative signs toward activating the peace process and giving it a new momentum on the Syrian track. The Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke about huge gaps, and his Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres deliberately ignored any talk about the Security Council resolutions in his UN General Assembly speech.

Syria has always been quick to offer anything that can advance the peace process and give the U.S. efforts a new chance based on its commitment to the strategic option of peace which is based on justice, comprehensiveness, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the international consensus on the principle of the U.S.

initiative which calls for exchanging land for peace. The whole world became aware that Syria does not bargain on land and does not relinquish a right, and cannot accept anything that conflicts with its full sovereignty over its land or that encroaches on its dignity. When Syria responded to the U.S. initiative and efforts, it proved the credibility of its peace tendencies which are based on the restoration of the entire land and all national and pan-Arab rights. When it accepted discussion of security arrangements, it emphasized the principle of equitability, parallelism, and equality on both sides of the borders and after the full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 line.

Israel has not made the peace decision yet. All Israeli pretexts used to obstruct and delay, foremost of which are the security pretext, are void. Military studies emphasize that there are practical alternatives to the early-warning stations. The whole world knows that the real guarantee of security in the age of missiles and advanced military technology is peace itself which makes security mutual commitments and not arrangements for war as Israel wants them to be as a reward for its occupation. All this emphasizes the importance of activating the U.S. role in a more effective manner on the Israeli positions, which continue to obstruct the peace process.

Unless the U.S. role moves in that direction, it will be difficult to expect a way out of the dilemma in which Israel placed the peace process.

Israel succeeded in overturning the facts and dissipating delusions, but it will not succeed in this forever because, in the final analysis, peace is a noble objective for which the whole international community works. The international community should be aware of the difference between he who wants peace and works for it and he who claims to search for peace through fruitless separate deals. The international community, led by the U.S. sponsor, should be aware of the size of its responsibility and role in the efforts to make just and comprehensive peace that will be the starting point for security and stability in the region in accordance with international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions.

Afghanistan

UN Envoy Returns to Kabul To Meet With Officials

LD0710164995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary-general, this afternoon arrived in Kabul.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that at Kabul airport Mestiri was welcomed by the deputy head of the protocol and some high ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During his stay in Kabul, the special UN envoy will meet the leadership authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Discusses Peace Process With Rabbani

BK0910045495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The UN Special Envoy, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, had a meeting with President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Kabul yesterday and discussed peace process in Afghanistan. After the meeting, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri said that he still hoped to avoid fighting among the warring factions and bring them on a temporary cease-fire. He admitted that there was neither agreement on details of a potential cease-fire nor the related issue of resignation of President Rabbani. He said the Taleban insist that the president immediately transfer power. He said that President Rabbani is ready to transfer power to a reasonable mechanism, but not to his rivals.

Foreign Mojahedin Arrested 'To Foil' Rebellion

BK0610155695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has ordered immediate arrest of all guest mojahedin staying in Kabul to foil any rebellion against his government. Reports from Kabul say that Deputy Defense Minister Dr. Abdollah [name as transliterated] has announced that 10 Algerians were arrested last week. They were arrested for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government of President Rabbani. Several Sudanese citizens have also been arrested. A wave of grief and anguish swept Kabul following these arrests and people there say that the Rabbani government took the step to please India.

Clashes Intensify Between Government, Taleban

LD0610110895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Clashes between forces loyal to the Afghan president and the Taleban militia intensified yesterday around Paghlan west of Kabul. A Taleban spokesman said in Peshawar today: The two sides used heavy weapons in these clashes. He added: The Taleban have also clashed with government forces in fronts south of Kabul and around a number of bases around Chahar Asiab.

Reports from Afghanistan also indicate that the Taleban group has rejected the UN envoy's proposal to establish a 10-day cease-fire.

Opposition Calls For President Rabbani's Resignation

LD0710120495 Tehran IRNA in English 1129 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 7, IRNA — Afghan opposition groups have refused to talk to the Kabul administration unless President Borhanoddin Rabbani steps down and removes his forces from besieged Afghan capital.

The Afghan opposition parties, supreme coordination council and student movement of Taleban have had meeting since yesterday in which they discussed Rabbani's proposal for talks.

Maulavi 'Abdol Baki Turkistani, representative of one of the Rabbani's foe, Uzbek warlord General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam told IRNA that opposition turned down the government's proposal unless President Rabbani resigns and his strong commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud withdraws his troops from Kabul.

He said the opposition groups would chalk out joint strategy if Rabbani refused to transfer power to an interim government.

Meanwhile an English daily quoting unnamed "sources close to the talks," reported that the opposition groups had in principle agreed to an understanding for launching of a coordinated attack on Kabul and installing of an interim government in place of Rabbani's administration.

Daily 'THE NEWS' said that coordination council which groups Hezb-e Eslami-ye [Islamic Party] of Golboddin Hekmatyar, Hezb-e Wahdat-e [Eslami] [Islamic Unity Party] of 'Abdol Karim Khalili, National Islamic Liberation Front headed by Sebghatollah Mojadeddi and National Islamic Movement of northern Afghanistan led by Dostam have agreed with Taleban on the formation of a political commission to sort out a power-sharing formula among the opposition parties in case Rabbani is dethroned.

According to the paper, the opposition's meeting also decided to form a military commission to launch a joint attack on war-weary Kabul to out Rabbani government.

The sources said that a Taleban delegation would leave shortly for northern town of Mazar-e Sharif to meet Dostam who earlier had sent his representatives to student movement leaders.

Meanwhile, UN special envoy Mahmud Mestiri is to meet Dostam in Mazar today before he flow to Kabul to hold talks with Rabbani and other officials of Afghan Government.

Taleban Said Preparing 'Massive' Offense on Kabul

BK0710090295 Hong Kong AFP in English
0841 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qandahar, Afghanistan, Oct 7 (AFP) — The Islamic student-led Taleban militia, in control of the southern half of Afghanistan, is preparing for a massive offensive against the capital Kabul, the base for forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani, witnesses said Saturday [7 October].

In Qandahar, the old royal capital and the headquarters of the Taleban movement for a year, the militia's movements have residents saying the attack seems inevitable.

"If Rabbani doesn't quit Kabul, they will definitely attack," said Isma'il, looking down from the cabin of his multicoloured lorry which he has been driving up and down the great Kabul-Qandahar highway for the past three days.

Isma'il said he had seen tanks, artillery, and troop trucks on the road to Meydan Shahr, a provincial capital 40 kilometres (24 miles) south west of Kabul where the Taleban forces are amassed.

After their crushing defeat at the hand of government forces outside Kabul in March, the Taleban launched a series of new offensives, culminating last month with their capture of Herat, a large town in west Afghanistan.

In Herat they seized quantities of military equipment, much of which found its way to Qandahar and is now on the way to Meydan Shahr.

A foreigner working for a humanitarian organisation said that in the last 10 days at least 100 tanks and large infantry batallions have been sent north.

The Talebans, who come from the native tribes of southern Afghanistan and Afghani refugee camps in Pakistan, are mostly Pushtun, the principal ethnic group in the country.

Even though they have studiously avoided playing the ethnic card, witnesses have said a steady stream of Pushtun men are heading for Kabul.

The Taleban's Shura (executive committee) does not hide its intentions. "We will very soon launch an attack on Kabul," said Qandahar governor Ahmed Hassan.

On Friday, during a visit to Qandahar by Peter Hansen, a United Nations undersecretary for humanitarian aid, he was introduced to a group of journalists as the interim leader of the Talebans, in the absence of Mohammad Omar, the group's leader.

Hassan said all foreigners should leave Kabul quickly — in particular the dozens working for humanitarian organisations.

Meanwhile, government forces also stepped up their reinforcements of the capital. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a veteran of the 1979-1989 war against the Soviet Union and military chief of the president's forces, has deployed tanks, artillery and infantry in three lines of defense separated by minefields to the south of Kabul, witnesses said.

Many analysts predict that a Taleban victory in Kabul would unleash a great settling of scores between the Panjsher Tadjiks, who like Mas'ud come from the Panjsher valley, and the Pushtun Taleban. The Panjshers know a Taleban victory would put them at the front of the firing line.

"If they lose Kabul they lose everything," said an Afghani intellectual. For them the stakes in the battle for Kabul is a case of all or nothing, he said.

High State Council Issues Statement on Cease-Fire

LD0910191595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Statement by the High State Council, in Kabul on 9 October — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Dear compatriots, brothers and sisters, peace and the blessing of God on you. Afghanistan, the country of free and proud people, is the birth place of heroes who selflessly defend their country, its Islamic and national identity. History shows that whenever our country has been invaded by foreigners, the brave people of this land have stood up together to defend it. It was with this spirit that our people revived when the former Soviet Union acted against the sovereignty and independence of our country. [passage omitted]

It should be confidently asserted that at this juncture too the people and the government would emerge victorious and proud from this great test as in the past, and would neutralize conspiracies.

Inspired by the good intentions and patriotic wishes of this country's people, including all equal and fraternal clans, tribes and nationalities of this land, the High State Council [HSC] praises the gallantry of this country's free and brave people. The government and people's solidarity stands as an unbreachable wall against any foreign intervention and fruitless attempt. [Passage indistinct] The HSC emphatically expresses that the people and the Islamic State of Afghanistan enjoy a high level of strength and capability, and as in the past can stop in the best manner any aggressor and neutralize conspiracies and defend the achievements of the Islamic revolution and protect the territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and independence of their country. The HSC of the Islamic State of Afghanistan is of the opinion that under the current conditions and circumstances peace and security, as the definite need of the people and society, must receive attention, and every possibility and opportunity must be used to ensure peace and the stability of the situation.

Taking into consideration the national interests, the fact that the ineffectiveness of fighting and armed clashes has been proved, and the fact that no force can achieve its goals by force, to prevent wasting time and capabilities and material and moral endowments, hostilities and tension must be ended through talks and understanding. The Islamic State of Afghanistan has already expressed its honest and unconditional readiness in this respect.

To put and end to the fighting and to ensure peace and the stability of the situation, the HSC calls on all peace-seeking forces to cooperate for the creation of an appropriate mechanism under which a council of the country's representatives will be convened as soon as possible. This council will decide about the future of the country and its leadership. The government confidently announces that it will abide by its decisions. In order to create an atmosphere of certainty to pursue political activities and negotiations, it is necessary that a cease-fire should come into force so that peace delegations continue their activities in a suitable atmosphere and in the absence of threat and worries. The Islamic State of Afghanistan has already welcomed the implementation of a cease-fire and announced its unconditional cooperation in this respect. Similarly the cessation of foreign interference is being considered as a principle and important condition for the elimination of hostilities and clashes because most of the incidents that have taken place over the past years originated from abroad. Not only the state but also the people of Afghanistan and the international organizations strongly believe that when foreign interference ceases, the people of this country can very soon resolve their problems and restore permanent peace and security across their country. Therefore, the HSC cordially asks the United Nations, other international and regional organizations, and the peace-loving countries of the world, among them Islamic countries, to selflessly assist and cooperate with the Afghan people and government to put an end to foreign interference. However, the unity and solidarity of this country's brave people is the main force that is preventing interference in their country's internal affairs. It should be mentioned that the activities and efforts of those peace-loving and benevolent persons who are working to restore peace in Afghanistan are appreciated by our people. The people of Afghanistan will always remember such sincere efforts. In this connection the UN and the Islamic Conference efforts to speed up the peace process in our country deserve mentioning. We hope, that taking into account the present realities of the Afghan society, these efforts will prove fruitful in the realization of the wishes of our people, and will remove the atmosphere of tension and distrust. The Islamic State of Afghanistan is ready for all kinds of cooperation to achieve the success of peace efforts in the country. Success Comes from God.

Taleban Chief Reportedly Rejects Cease-Fire Appeal

BK0910113995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A commander of Taleban, Mullah Mashar, is reported to have rejected the UN call for temporary cease-fire in Afghanistan. According to reports, the time for talks has lapsed. He said he would attack Kabul if President Rabbani does not relinquish power. The statement came after the UN special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri said he was confident of temporary cease-fire. The UN has also called for fresh aid to Afghanistan.

India

Report on Rao Statement to U.S. Officials Denied

BK0710125095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has refuted a Washington-based report that India and Pakistan are agreeable to taking part in a five-nation conference to discuss nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that there is no truth that Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao had agreed on the issue during his meeting with two U.S. senators, Mr. Hank Brown and Mr. Arlen Specter. He said India continues to maintain its position, which calls for the elimination of all nuclear weapons within a stipulated time to achieve genuine nonproliferation.

France Reportedly Backs Call for UN Council Seat

BK0610133195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] France says it supports India's claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. This was stated by the French ambassador to India, Mr. Philip Petiet, in New Delhi today. He said rapid changes are taking place in the world and there is a need to expand the Security Council. The ambassador said France also supports the inclusion of Germany and Japan in the council.

Commentary Views Claim for UN Seat

BK0610124995 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Commentary by M.D. Dhar: "India Stakes Claim for Security Council Membership"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] External Affairs Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee has formally staked India's claim to a permanent seat in the UN Security Council in his address before the General Assembly and his meeting with the Secretary General, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, in New York. With the 50th anniversary celebrations of the UN under way and the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, due to address the special commemorative session from 22-24 October, it is natural that the issue of restructuring the world body to make it fully representative of humanity should be addressed. One must bear it in mind that India joined the United Nations as one of its founder members. The two view together giving strength and inspiration to each other in a symbiotic relationship. Each was the product of a long struggle — one of the embers of a violent world war and the other of the sacrifices of a nonviolent freedom movement.

India's commitment to world peace and the progress of all human beings is deep and abiding. It has endeavored to promote this goal through the United Nations by participating in all its activities, including peacekeeping. One, however, needs to note that when its charter was signed the UN had 51 members, but now the number exceeds 185. The Security Council had five permanent and 10 nonpermanent members then as it has now and does not truly reflect the strength of the UN membership. The demand for expansion of the Security Council to accommodate the representatives of the developing world has been the subject of intense debate since 1992 with India leading the campaign. It seeks a permanent seat by virtue of its regional status, the size of its population, and growing economic clout. India fulfills the objective condition for the seat. It has one sixth of the world's population, its contribution to UN peacekeeping has been immense, it is a major developing country with tremendous economic potential and it has a vast market. By virtue of its immense political and economic strength, it has as much right to a permanent seat in the Security Council as China. India has been perhaps the most active member of the Nonaligned Movement, G-15, and all the major movements in the developing countries. It is poised to become the fourth largest economy in the world by the year 2015.

Presently representation in the council from Asia is restricted to China and even if Japan were to be admitted, the South Asian region which has so far been unrepresented can be filled by India. It is unfortunate that at a time when the organization needs all the political legitimacy it can muster, its principle decision making organ, the Security Council, remains an unbalanced institution. It neither reflects the distribution of power or influence in the world nor constitutes a representative and democratic global body. Africa and Latin America have no representation and Asia is underrepresented. Without democratic reform, the Security Council will continue as a western-dominated institution, an instrument of western policy, which undermines its credibility and political legitimacy.

The United States favors a modest expansion of the size of the Security Council while preserving its effectiveness. It supports the candidacy of both Germany and Japan to be new permanent members. It envisages the council going from 15 to 20 seats, but is undecided as to who should be the other three members. As U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Warren Christopher, told the General Assembly: we would ensure that all the world's regions are represented without making the council unwieldy. The U.S. position is obviously based on the premise that since it is the highest contributor to United Nations funds, it must have the final word on any restructuring of the United Nations. While the other western countries, notably Britain, France, and Russia — all permanent members — have not shown any particular enthusiasm for India becoming a permanent member, the overwhelming majority of the developing countries favor India's candidature. They feel that without democratic reforms, the Security Council will remain a western-dominated institution and an instrument of western policy which seriously undermines its credibility. India wants the question to be addressed as a whole and will disfavor any move for a two-stage expansion, that is, admitting Germany and Japan during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the United Nations and postponing the rest to a later date. If the UN is serious about its search of global solutions to global problems, it cannot postpone structural changes nor can the western countries thwart India's right to its well deserved place in the Security Council.

Government Said To Build Fence on Pakistan Border

BK0910014095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union minister of state for home, Syed Sibte Razi, has said that the government has prepared a time-bound scheme to complete barbed wire fencing along the border with Pakistan. Talking to newspersons in Lucknow today, Mr. Razi announced that the work of erecting the barbed wire along the 1,045-km long border in Rajasthan will soon be taken up.

He said there has been a spurt in the activities of the Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence in Uttar Pradesh and northeastern states.

Minister Views Kashmir, U.S. Arms for Pakistan

BK1010005595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India today asserted that it will take all measures to meet security requirements in the wake of resumption of U.S. arms supply to Pakistan. Addressing army commanders in New Delhi today, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, said India is against any kind of arms race in the region, but it will not remain indifferent to its security requirements. Referring to Pakistan's clandestine efforts to continue with a nuclear program, Mr. Mallikarjun said it poses a serious threat to the region.

On the Kashmir problem, Mr. Mallikarjun said it has remained an obsession with the Pakistani leadership since independence. He said the government is committed to restore political process in the state at the earliest. The minister called upon the armed forces to meet this national challenge and provide all assistance to the civil administration. The conference will end on Thursday [12 October] with the address of the prime minister to the joint commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Kashmiri Hostages Said Moving Towards Border

BK0910082695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 9 (AFP) — Muslim separatist militants holding four Western hostages in Kashmir appear to be forcing the ailing hostages toward the border between India and Pakistan, officials said Monday [9 October].

"The whereabouts of the Western hostages are being constantly monitored," said a Kashmir state official who requested anonymity. "It seems they are trekking towards the border and may cross over."

The official said the kidnappers, the Al-Faran separatist group, may be searching for a warm place to spend the harsh Himalayan winter or intend to cross the Line of Control separating Indian and Pakistan forces in Kashmir.

"If they are thinking of crossing the Line of Control then they may use the hostages as 'human shields,' cross the border and leave the hostages behind," he said.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Muslim militants seeking to end Indian rule over Kashmir, a charge denied by Islamabad. Pakistan holds one-third of the disputed Himalayan territory while India holds the rest.

The violent Muslim separatist drive in the Indian portion of the divided state has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

The officials in the Kashmir summer capital said the last known hideout of the kidnappers was at an altitude of more than 4,000 meters (13,200 feet) in a village in south Kashmir but they had been on the move since then.

Indian officials have not been in contact with the kidnappers of Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert since September 19. They believe the hostages are alive though ailing.

The four hostages are believed to be suffering from dysentery and exposure-related illnesses after more than three months in captivity.

Wells, 23, Mangan, 33, and Hutchings, 42, were seized on July 4 while trekking near the Himalayan resort of Pahalgam. Hasert, 26, and Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro were abducted in the same area four days later.

Ostro, 27, was decapitated by the kidnappers in August. A note found along with his body on August 13 warned that the other hostages would meet the same fate if the Indian authorities failed to release 15 imprisoned Muslim rebels.

The Indian Government has rejected a prisoner-for-hostage swap and ruled out a commando-style military rescue operation as too risky.

Kashmiri Muslim separatist leaders here have alleged that the kidnapping has been staged by Indian intelligence agencies to discredit their campaign for an end to Indian rule over the country's only Muslim-majority state.

The Indian Government has categorically rejected the charge and claimed that the previously unknown Al-Faran is actually the Harkat- ul-Ansar, a hardline Muslim rebel group made up mainly of Afghan fighters.

The Harkat-ul-Ansar kidnapped two Britons in the Pahalgam area in June last year and freed them unharmed after 17 days. The group has denied involvement in the latest abductions.

Soldiers Said Among 24 Killed in Kashmir Clashes

BK0610135395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, at least 24 people have been killed, including Indian soldiers, during the last 24 hours. KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE reported that five Indian soldiers were killed and several others seriously injured in land mine explosion near Ganeshpur in Srinagar and at Haripur in Kupwara District.

In Srinagar, three Indian soldiers were killed during an attack on a military patrol by mojahedin, while four more Indian soldiers were killed during clashes in Rainawari and Lalpura. According to reports, a woman — Rajah — was killed in custody at Mittan, while four others were martyred by Indian troops in Kulgam and Pulwama. Four more people were killed by Indian soldiers during siege and search operations at various places, while three dead bodies of custodial killings were found in Pir Hamdan area.

'Militants' Reportedly Kill 8 in Assam Attack

BK1010093995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Assam, suspected Bodo [tribal] militants shot dead eight persons, including two minor children, at Subhashpalli Village near Kalaigaon in Darrang District last night. Official sources at Guwahati said a group of militants with sophisticated weapons attacked three houses and opened fire indiscriminately, killing three persons on the spot. Five others succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. Additional forces [that] rushed to the area have launched combing operations to nab the militants. The chief minister Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, also left for Kalaigaon this morning to assess the situation.

Gujarat Chief Minister Wins Vote of Confidence

BK0710095995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Keshubhai Patel, has won the vote of confidence. One hundred and twenty-two members voted in favor of the one-line motion in the state assembly, 46 members voted against, while 13 abstained. Our Ahmedabad correspondent Manoj Rigaja reports that with this the crisis in the ruling BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in the state has blown over.

Earlier, the rebel group led by Mr. Shankarsinh Vaghela agreed to support the motion of confidence following an understanding reached with senior party leaders in Gandhinagar this morning. Mr. Vaghela is reported to have assured that he would abide by the decision of Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, senior BJP leader presently in Gandhinagar. The BJP general secretary, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, has said the remaining issues, including the leadership of the state legislature party, will be discussed at a meeting of the central office bearers scheduled to be held in New Delhi tomorrow.

Iran

U.S. Policy 'Failure' on Syria-Israel Talks Viewed

NC0710072595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. officials are trying to convince Syria to resume talks with Israel and end the current deadlock. Following the visit by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Washington, Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for Middle East affairs, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met and talked with al-Shar', and President Bill Clinton expressed his intention to hold talks with the Syrian foreign minister. A meeting between Clinton and al-Shar' was discussed by the U.S. and Syrian foreign ministers.

The issue of Clinton's meeting with al-Shar' reminds you of Clinton's visit to Syria, which was aimed at gaining Damascus' consent and at ending the deadlock in the compromise talks. But to no avail.

During the Syrian foreign minister's meeting with U.S. foreign policy officials, the two sides discussed Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, security arrangements in this region after the Israeli withdrawal, and the resumption of talks between Syrian and Zionist military officials. Although, as usual, and in diplomatic language, the talks the Syrian foreign minister had with the U.S. officials were described as good and constructive, interviews after the talks reveal that no result was achieved. The Syrian foreign minister has stated that differences remain over security arrangements in the Golan after the Israeli withdrawal.

The differences center on Israel's insistence on deploying its warning stations in the region after withdrawing from Golan. Syria says the Golan is an inseparable part of its territory and considers the continuing presence of Israeli stations as a violation of its sovereignty, hence its insistence on the full and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist regime from this region.

As for resuming talks between Syrian and Israeli military officials, the Syrian foreign minister stated that these talks cannot resume as long as Israel does not accept full withdrawal from the Golan. The deputy secretary general of the Syrian Ba'thist Party, speaking on the 22d anniversary of the 1973 war, stated that his country will never accept a peace that does not ensure Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied territories in Syria.

The Americans are trying to end the deadlock in the Syrian-Israeli talks in view of the upcoming presidential elections and to score a point in foreign policy. Apparently, Syria's response has prevented them from scoring a success. Although U.S. efforts will not stop, Syria's resistance and its insistence on Israel's withdrawal from the Golan leaves the Americans no alternative, but to inflict pressure on Israel, unless the White House accepts the failure of its policy and ends its contacts.

Syrian Minister Calls For Industrial Cooperation

LD0410224995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting with First Vice President Hasan Habibi, Syrian Industry Minister Ahmad Nizam-al-Din described the level of technological know-how and the production of standard industrial goods in Iran as significant and outstanding.

Nizam-al-Din also requested that Syria use Iranian expertise, particularly in the field of industry.

The first vice president announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to transfer its know-how and expertise to Syria. Habibi mentioned that the two countries should pursue the expansion of their technical and economic cooperation more seriously.

Lebanese Housing Minister Continues Visit

Lauds Resistance to U.S., Israel

LD0310153695 Tehran IRNA in English 1247 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Oct. 3, IRNA — Lebanese Housing Minister Mahmud Abu-Hamdan stressed here Monday [2 October] that pressures exerted by the global arrogance on the Islamic Republic of Iran would have no impact on the strong will of the Iranian nation.

In an interview with IRNA here, he underlined the need to maintain the unity among Iran, Syria and Lebanon.

The U.S. and the Zionist regime are trying to implement their compromise plans in the region by ignoring the views of Syria and Lebanon, he said adding, the strategic cooperation among the three countries would prevent such plots from being implemented in the Persian Gulf.

Referring to Washington's expansionist policy across the globe, Abu-Hamdan reiterated that the Islamic movement is the only factor able to deter America's spiteful policies.

Referring to threats posed by the Zionist regime and the arrogant power, he noted that the past experiences have shown that such threats are all empty without any impact on the Islamic revolution.

Appreciating Iran's policy of supporting anti-Zionism resistance in the region, the Lebanese minister stated that resistance to Israeli occupying forces is given top priority by Lebanon.

Commenting on his forthcoming visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran to be made at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Abbas Ahmad Akhundi, he said during his stay in Tehran he would discuss promotion of bilateral cooperation with Iranian officials.

Signs Economic Cooperation Agreement

LD0710180395 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA — Iran and Lebanon here Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding on expansion of Tehran-Beirut economic cooperation, especially in areas of housing and urban development, exchange of information, knowledge and expertise and technology transfer.

The memo was signed by Minister of Housing and Urban Development Abbas Akhoundi and his Lebanese counterpart Mahmoud Abu Hamdan.

The two sides at the meeting referred to deep political, cultural, economic and technical bonds between the two countries and underlined expansion of mutual cooperation.

The memo calls for exchange of experts and delegations, setting up of joint construction companies to carry out projects and forming a centre to study cooperatives affairs.

According to the memo Iran would contribute to reconstruction projects in Lebanon while the Lebanese would cooperate in offering required facilities to Iran in this field.

Iran also agreed to carry out housing projects in Lebanon within the framework of joint ventures, and export construction materials to Lebanon.

Commentary Justifies Efforts To Reconcile Kurds

NC0810185095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Commentary from the "News and Reports" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi newspapers have made unrealistic claims against Iran for making new mediation efforts last week to restore peace between the warring Kurdish organizations in northern Iraq. AL-THAWRAH deemed these mediation efforts an interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and in a later step, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian ambassador in Baghdad to convey the Iraqi Government's protest over Iran's contacts with the two Kurdish parties in northern Iraq.

Iran's invitation to the two rival Kurdish parties in northern Iraq to hold talks in Tehran was part of our country's efforts to put an end to the bloodshed in northern Iraq. At one stage, those efforts resulted in both sides reaching a cease-fire agreement. But worsening differences and interference by foreign hands obstructed peace and calm in northern Iraq.

One may ask why should Iran be so interested in restoring peace to northern Iraq. It is obvious that this concern proceeds from the fact that the battles are taking place in a region with a joint border with Iran. The continuation of these battles negatively affects security and stability in Iranian border areas. The influx of thousands of Iraqi Kurdish refugees into the Iranian border is one aspect of this negative situation. Moreover, a worsening situation in northern Iraq gives foreign forces the necessary excuse to interfere in the affairs of the region. For all these reasons, and to avoid the repercussions of these developments, Muslim Iran did not hesitate to make efforts to restore peace in northern Iraq. Peace in that region will ultimately prevent partition of Iraqi territory.

The position of the Iraqi officials, therefore, seems strange. Instead of thinking of the matter realistically and focussing their attention on the sensitivity of the situation in the region, those officials preferred to cast doubt on Iran's sincere efforts. This is despite the fact the real roots of the crisis in northern Iraq are linked to the Iraqi regime's inability to impose its sovereignty over all Iraqi territory, not to the Iranian mediation efforts.

Official Views Efforts To Resolve POW, MIA Issues

NC0710085695 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 1 Oct 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran are following up on the return of the POW's and the fate of the MIA's.

This was stated in an exclusive interview granted to ETTELA'AT by Brigadier General 'Abdollah Najafi, head of the general office for safeguarding information of the General Command Headquarters and head of the POW's commission. Najafi added: Talks between Iranian and Iraqi officials in Baghdad and Tehran on the remaining POW's and MIA's have been positive. And since Iran and the various officials attach special importance to the families of these selfless devotees, all-aspected efforts have been and will be made to tend to the affairs of the POW's and the MIA's.

He added that these efforts will yield results only if the Iraqi side reacts positively.

Referring to the recent meeting between Iranian and Iraqi officials in Tehran, Brigadier General Najafi said: A list of the Iranian POW's and related issues has been prepared by the members of the POW's commission and with the cooperation of the offices in charge of the affairs of the selfless devotees of the Armed Forces. We have no problems as far as the continuation of talks and the adoption of the necessary steps are concerned.

Najafi pointed out that during the Tehran talks, contrary to the meeting in Baghdad, an agreement was signed between the Iranian and the Iraqi committees for POW and MIA affairs. He said: We are waiting for the Iraqi officials to take the next step. We want the families of the selfless devotees to pray that with God's help the talks will continue and we will witness the release of our POW's. [passage omitted]

Borujerdi Addresses Afghanistan Issues

NC0610091095 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Sep 95 pp 1, 2, 12

["Text" of exclusive interview with 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [ABRAR] Recently Afghanistan has been facing a new round of civil war. The Taleban Group has occupied Herat and is preparing to attack Kabul. Meanwhile, you paid a visit to Afghanistan and met with the leaders of the various groups, and your trip coincided with the peace efforts by Mahmud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general to Afghanistan. What was the outcome of your meetings?

[Borujerdi] First of all, it is very natural for us to be sensitive on the issue of Afghanistan, especially when negative repercussions of any kind from incidents in that country affect neighboring countries, the largest of which is our country. Therefore, it is only natural for us to follow the various processes on Afghanistan's political and military scene with great sensitivity.

Secondly, we are concerned over any kind of war or dispute because people are killed in such incidents, and we want such disputes to end as soon as possible.

Naturally, our concern was intensified with the extensive reports in the press on the Taleban's attack on Kabul and the deadline that they had set, since war in Kabul would undoubtedly mean the killing of many people, and the people of Afghanistan have already suffered greatly and tolerated many problems for long years.

[ABRAR] Despite Taleban's threats, about 270,000 Kabul residents have still not left the city!

[Borujerdi] I think the number is much higher than that. I held discussions with Mr. Hekmatyar in Jalalabad and with Mr. Dostam in Mazar-e Sharif. This was one of the major topics discussed. In other words, the Islamic Republic's concern over the current situation in Afghanistan was expressed and a proposal for serious steps to end all disputes in that country, in view of the fact that both these people are leaders in Afghanistan's power scene, was made.

I think that without the participation of all the influential military and political groups in Afghanistan and without talks for reaching understanding, the current situation will continue. And as long as this situation continues, we should not expect a tranquil Kabul and a tranquil Afghanistan to exist near our borders.

This is why I told these gentlemen to choose the best means—that is, talks. I felt that both groups—[Hekmatyar's] Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and [Dostam's] National-Islamic Movement—are not happy with the continuation of the disputes since this means the continuation of the killings, and they expressed their readiness for a logical movement which will ensure their interests. Naturally, this movement should be seriously followed up and continue in the future.

After these meetings, I had a stopover in Islamabad and held talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali. I informed the Pakistanis of Iran's concern over the current developments in Afghanistan and also talked to them about the concern felt by others as well.

[ABRAR] Did the Pakistani foreign minister brief you on his visit to Rome and his meeting with Mohammad Zaher Shah?

[Borujerdi] Pakistan has said that this visit was intended as a a follow-up to bilateral relations with Italy. But... [ellipsis as published]

[ABRAR] The Pakistani foreign minister said that he just happened to bump into Mohammad Zaher Shah by chance!

[Borujerdi] Naturally, since a meeting did take place between the two, at least one of the objectives behind the Pakistani foreign minister's visit was to hold this meeting.

[ABRAR] Actually, stating that the trip took place in order to follow up bilateral cooperation with Italy was merely a cover-up for this meeting.

[Borujerdi] During my meeting with Mr. Hekmatyar, I witnessed an extremely negative opinion on Mohammad Zaher Shah.

He said: I myself was his prisoner in Afghanistan for two years and I cannot tolerate the fact that the outcome of the immense jehadi movement by the Afghan Muslims will be a monarchy. I will not allow him (Mohammad Zaher Shah) to succeed.

This is a manifestation of the serious opposition by Islamic groups in Afghanistan toward this type of rule. They expect to see results from their long years of struggle, jihad, and efforts to yield an Islamic rule in their country; and this is only natural.

[ABRAR] Since Mr. Hekmatyar is concerned over the future, do you think that his views on the Taleban Group are the same as his views on a monarchy?

[Borujerdi] The conclusion I have drawn is that there are many questions on his mind.

[ABRAR] On both Hekmatyar's and Dostam's?

[Borujerdi] Yes. Basically speaking, the Islamic movements in Afghanistan and the jehadi groups have a specific record of several years of struggle. Therefore, a spontaneous generation situation in Afghanistan cannot be very encouraging. I believe that it was only natural for these gentlemen to have such questions in their minds and for them to believe that it is the genuine movements in Afghanistan which should yield a result.

I had a brief meeting with Mr. Mestiri in Islamabad. It was agreed that we would hold detailed talks in Tehran. I think that the United Nations is grateful for the Islamic Republic's peace-seeking efforts, especially since we have carried out extensive activities in the field of humanitarian assistance such as vaccination programs in Afghanistan—something which no other country has ever done on such a vast scale. We have other similar plans in mind for the people of Afghanistan. It is a proven fact in the region and in the world that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been interested in a basic solution to the Afghan problem and the preservation of its territorial integrity.

[ABRAR] Parallel with these peace efforts, in which the United Nations is consulting with Iran, other efforts such as cooperation with Russia and Central Asian countries are also being carried out?

[Borujerdi] Naturally the situation in those countries is not like the situation in Afghanistan. [sentence as published] Nevertheless, the countries that you have mentioned are definitely worried over the tension in Afghanistan. I think that if our peace-seeking efforts in Afghanistan progress, they will cooperate with us more actively.

The United Nations does not know what it will be able to do in the future. This organization's past record is not a positive one, since it has never been able to gain the full trust of the Afghan groups or play a significant role in the establishment of peace and stability in that country.

[ABRAR] Do you think that apart from the war among the conflicting sides, foreign intervention and regional rivalry, such as the rivalry between Pakistan and India, have also been to blame in Afghanistan's civil war, in view of the fact that the Pakistanis are extremely worried over Kabul's friendship with New Delhi and don't want this friendship to continue?

[Borujerdi] Actually it is not a secret to anyone that there is a sensitivity between India and Pakistan. This sensitivity also extends beyond the two countries' borders. Afghanistan too may be one of the regions which is included in the rivalry between the two. Of course we have always stated our views in favor of ending the tension between India and Pakistan because we believe that tension is not in any way to the benefit of the region and will be to the detriment of the people.

Rafsanjani Receives Bangladeshi Energy Minister

LD0210123695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting this morning with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Bangladesh's Energy Minister Khondaker Mosharraf Hussain referred to the president's coming visit to his country and said: The people and the Government of Bangladesh await your excellency's arrival in their country with great enthusiasm. We hope that the good relations between our two countries will expand further with this visit.

The Bangladeshi minister declared his country's readiness to purchase oil products from the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for the participation of Iranian technical experts in the renovation and construction of a refinery, the exploration for oil, and the construction of gas power stations in Bangladesh.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also referred to the existing cooperation between Iran and Bangladesh and the possibilities for its further expansion, and said: Due to its huge Muslim population, Bangladesh is the focus of attention of the Iranian people, and we are ready to put our valuable experience in the economic, technical, and trade spheres at the disposal of that country.

The president also hoped that the visits by officials of the two countries will be an effective step toward expanding links.

Bosnia's Smajlbegovic Holds Talks With Habibi

LD0510095495 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 5, IRNA — Bosnian Industry and Energy Minister Faruk Smajlbegovic met and conferred with first Vice-President Hasan Habibi, here on Wednesday [4 October]. Smajlbegovic, who is here to sign a memorandum of understanding for economic cooperation with Iran and Croatia, appreciated Iranian government and nation for their all-out humanitarian support for Muslim Bosnian people and briefed Habibi on economic developments in his respective country, especially in the area of agriculture, energy generation and foodstuff production. He added that technical and economic cooperation of Iran, Bosnia and Croatia would enter a new phase following inking of a memo by the three countries' officials.

Also referring to the presence of Bosnian traders and industrialists at the 21st Tehran international trade fair, he expressed hope that commercial and economic transactions between Iran and Bosnia would be upgraded.

Habibi for his part expressed satisfaction over trilateral talks and underlined the need for cooperation and exchange of views among the three countries. Furthermore, he said that more cooperation between Iranian and Bosnian commercial companies would pave the way for expansion of bilateral ties. Habibi said that Iran was ready to offer its technical and economic expertise and information to the "friendly and brother" country of Bosnia.

Daily: Power Balance Will Protect Bosnian Cease-Fire

LD0810121195 Tehran IRNA in English
1156 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 8, IRNA — The balance of power will be the best guarantee for keeping the guns silent in the highly volatile Balkan region, which has the potential to ignite the third world war, an English-language daily wrote Sunday [8 October].

"Some Islamic countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, have been demanding that the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims be lifted in the interest of the balance of power," the newspaper IRAN NEWS added.

Western countries blocked the Islamic countries' efforts to supply weapons to Bosnians, while the Serbs have been freely receiving all the material needed to keep their war machine moving, it stressed.

Referring to the agreement establishing a 60-day cease-fire that was signed by the parties involved in the bloody crisis in the Balkans, the daily said that this is not the first cease-fire accord as dozens of similar agreements were signed in the past but were violated by the Serbs.

"Some analysts believe this cease-fire won't last long because of the criminal nature of the Serbs and the bitter experiences of the 42-month ordeal for the Bosnians and Croatians," it wrote.

"They argue that there are no guarantees for the success of Thursday's accord, and to the very nature of the Serbs, and with the covert and overt support they receive from Russia and certain other Western powers, it may take a very long time before peace is achieved," the editorial stated.

It noted that it has been pointed out that the joint efforts of Western and Islamic contact groups produced this favorable outcome and also proved, once again, the truth of the adage 'Might makes right'.

Praising the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the article wrote that the two-week long air attacks last month brought the Serbs back to their senses.

It underlined that another startling development was Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin's invitation extended to Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic last week announcing Russia's readiness to resume natural gas deliveries to Sarajevo.

"The Russian invitation to the Bosnian official, and the announcement of the resumption of natural gas deliveries to Bosnia is a direct result of the developments that took place in the Balkans last month, most important of which was the Croat-Bosnian victories over the Serb forces," it said.

The paper concluded that despite the fact that more than 50,000 heavily armed troops will be deployed in former Yugoslavia under NATO command, it is still necessary that a balance of power be maintained to deter any violations of the cease-fire.

Slovak Economics Minister Ducky Pays Visit

Takes Part in Joint Session

LD0210123595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first session of the joint Iranian-Slovak economic commission, headed by Iranian Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh and Slovak Economics Minister Jan Ducky was held in Tehran today. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] At the session, the Iranian and Slovak heads of the joint commission spoke of the good past record of relations between the two countries when the Czech and Slovak Republics were united and expressed their wish to continue these relations in the future. They also spoke of the areas in which Iran and the Slovak Republic can cooperate.

Mr. Ne'matzadeh expressed the hope that the volume of trade between the two countries would increase and conveyed the wish that, by paving the way for increasing the level of exports from Iran to the Slovak Republic, a balance of trade would be established between the two countries.

Iran's imports from Slovakia have gone down from 26.5 million dollars in 1991 to 11.8 million dollars in 1993 and Iran's exports to that country during this period have gone down from 30.4 million dollars to 1.1 million dollars. The level of trade between the two countries during the first eight months of last year was only 5.1 million dollars.

At the end of the formal talks between the officials of the two countries, a memorandum of understanding on economic and industrial cooperation and transport affairs is to be signed between the two countries.

In the field of industry, Iran has submitted proposals to the Slovak Republic with regards to projects relating to the production of textiles, tires and, pharmaceuticals.

Holds Talks With Habibi

LD0310171695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Slovakia's economics and commerce minister [Jan Ducky] today met with our country's Vice President Mr. Habibi and called for further expansion of economic and commercial ties between the two countries. Mr. Habibi, in turn, underlined the Islamic Republic of Iran's special attention to bolstering its relations with the countries of central and eastern Europe.

The vice president, moreover, stressed the strategic importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in facilitating the European countries' access to markets in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Signs Trade Accord

LD0310205095 Tehran IRNA in English
2017 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA — Iranian minister of commerce, Yahya ol-Eshaq, and Slovakia's minister of economic affairs, Jan Ducky, inked an agreement here Tuesday [3 October] allowing Iran and Slovakia to import and export required items according to the laws governing trade in the two countries. According to the accord the buyers can make use of the negotiable non-governmental foreign currency to carry out their transactions.

The agreement also stipulates that all imports and exports will be subject to tarrifs, business liabilities and charges as applied for other countries. Ol-Eshaq stated that the two countries can have bilateral econonomic relations and cooperate in the fields of oil and chemicals, adding that Iran can buy tyres from Slovakia and sell chemicals to that country.

The Iranian commerce minister stated that since Tehran and Bratislava enjoy good trade relations, the chambers of commerce of Iran and Slovakia can organize international and special trade fairs in the two countries. Jan Ducky pointed out that the two countries enjoyed good historical ties and political ties, adding that the present scope of bilateral cooperation has not been fully explored due to the fact that Slovakia become a full-fledged independent country recently. The Slovak official was greatly impressed by the 21st Tehran international trade fair which he visited today, saying that the variety and quality of Iranian products on display could meet part of his country's import needs.

China 'Has Not Canceled' Nuclear Reactor Deal

LD0910120895 Tehran IRNA in English
1050 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 9 (IRNA) — China has not cancelled the sale of two nuclear reactors to Iran as Beijing is firm in its decision to provide the reactors to the Islamic Republic, said Hoseyn Mir-Fakhr, the Iranian ambassador to China.

In an exclusive interview with the morning English-language daily, TEHRAN TIMES, Mir-Fakhr discussed Irano-Chinese ties and Sino-U.S. relations in addition to China's decision to sell two nuclear reactors to the Islamic Republic.

Talking of the future trend of developments in China, he said that drastic present-day developments stem from measures initiated since 1979 wherein the world witnessed fundamental changes in the political and economic standpoint of Chinese officials.

As to the future of China-U.S. relations, Mir-Fakhr noted that despite some ups and downs, Sino-American ties have been upgraded, citing that in 1994, the volume of commercial exchanges between the two countries amounted to dlrs. 35 billion, making the U.S. the third most active trading partner of China after Japan and Hong Kong.

Regarding cooperation among significant regional countries, such as Iran, India, and China, the Iranian ambassador noted that, as far as China is concerned, creating a secure and stable atmosphere in order to achieve economic progress is one of the main pivots of the Chinese foreign policy. Consequently, the policy of peaceful co-existence and establishing ties with the regional and non-regional countries are considered top priorities by the Chinese Government.

That is why, he added, despite former border disputes between China and India, the two countries now enjoy expanded and cordial ties.

Therefore, participation of China in any regional cooperation and alliance should be viewed and assessed from this standpoint, he said.

Evaluating Sino-Iranian relations, Mir-Fakhr stated that, presently, Iran and China enjoy friendly and rapidly expanding ties. The dialogue between Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng in Beijing last April was significant and constructive.

Holding the eighth session of the joint economic commission in china was the latest major development in the area of economy, he said.

At the gathering, the two sides reached important agreements on cooperation in economic, commercial, scientific, and technical areas.

Based on the agreements, the two countries will cooperate in the construction of the subway in Tehran, a power plant in Arak (in central province), some cement factories, and the implementation of some projects to extract copper, zinc, and lead.

Also, the agreements prepare the groundwork for holding trade fairs in the two countries and China's purchase of the Iranian oil.

On China's attitude toward the U.S. economic sanctions against Iran, he said the Chinese officials have declared that such sanctions will not help resolve the disputes between Iran and the United States and will only escalate the tension.

As a result, China not only did not join the sanctions, but it also condemned such measures.

The Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen stated that Iran and China have signed the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] and are fully committed to it.

He added that no changes have been made in China's decision to cooperate with Iran in peaceful use of nuclear energy.

U.S.-PRC Differences Over Iran-PRC Ties Seen

*NC0910125195 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
1 Oct 95 p 16*

[Political commentary: "The PRC, the United States, and Iran's Nuclear Capability"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This year has seen strained relations between the United States and the PRC, marked by an economic-commercial war, debate over copyright issues, and questions concerning the PRC's consumer market and its textile products in the U.S. market along with the implied recognition of Tibetan secessionists by Washington, the contention of the Taiwan issue, and even Hong Kong. Each of these issues generated swings of varying degrees in Beijing-Washington relations.

Any variable [motaghayyerha] might easily have been related to one of the others but sometimes a storm would break, shaking international media circles. At other times it would subside into a pleasant breeze.

This tension also stems from the emergence of new variables on a higher level, reflecting the politico-economic relations between the two current world powers.

The cooperation between the PRC and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the implementation of Iran's nuclear program can be considered the latest addition to these variables. But the issues of Iran's nuclear capability and Tehran-Beijing cooperation are not new. The expediency of time has merely given them artificial prominence.

In recent months, even though the United States-PRC contention was reaching its peak, Chinese officials propounded claims about the signing of an agreement on nuclear cooperation with Tehran. The most important issue stressed in this context was the independence and boldness of the PRC's foreign policy decisionmakers.

Coinciding with a relatively quiet period and Warren Christopher's meeting with his Chinese counterpart, the agreement regarding the PRC's nuclear cooperation with Iran encountered some ambiguous points that had never been raised before.

PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen announced: The site for the construction of the Iranian power plant is inappropriate, so the agreement's implementation will be suspended.

The new wave of attacks on Iran's rights to abide by Article Four of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] bears a striking resemblance to a wave that emerged during Clinton's visit to Moscow at the beginning of the year. Even today, an anti-Iranian faction constitutes part of the Zionist circles. Zionist regime Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres made the repetitive claim: Iran is rich in energy resources and therefore does not need nuclear energy.

If this unjust international stance continues it is not unlikely that this Israeli clause may be appended to Article Four of the NPT.

From the economic aspect a new agreement was signed between the African investors [as published] and the PRC Government and university research centers following a meeting between foreign ministers. General Motors of the United States signed a $1-billion agreement with Shanghai to set up a research center. The objective of this accord was to be the transfer of vehicle industry technology to the PRC.

Some economic circles deemed the agreement a sort of rivalry between the U.S. Government and U.S.

companies and their Japanese rivals. This is because, facing a stronger yen, the Japanese are transferring some of their production factories to the ASEAN countries, including the PRC.

This economic reasoning merits attention. But why is it that economic talks are now taking place after two years of verbal disputes? This could be another scenario for a similar effort to the economic enticement to the Russians to sever their cooperation with Iran.

Unfortunately, in some cases, the nonaligned PRC sacrifices nonaligned objectives for the exigencies of time and the aims of the international system. A possible meeting—22-24 October—between Clinton and PRC President Jiang Zemin on the sidelines of the UN anniversary gathering will clarify many of these ambiguities.

This meeting has not been finalized but it remains to be seen how Zemin interprets the demands of the situation.

Under these circumstances it would be premature to venture any opinion in this regard. If the points of variance between Washington and Beijing are defused this will undoubtedly result in the exchange of economic privileges for the United States with political privileges for the PRC. If such an exchange does not materialize, more extensive disputes will arise.

Rafsanjani Signs Letter of Understanding in Vietnam

LD0710124795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the end of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Vietnam a letter of understanding in 13 parts was signed between the foreign minister and the minister of agriculture of Iran and their Vietnamese counterparts. The letter of understanding deals with political, cultural, agricultural, industrial, banking, trade, investment, construction, oil, mine, communication and transport issues.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's president also on Friday October 6th, in a press conference answered questions put to him by reporters in various fields. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in answer to a question regarding Iran-Vietnam cooperation, pointing to the signing of the Tehran-Hanoi cooperation document, said: The fields of cooperation are mainly agricultural ones, especially rice and tea and oil. The cooperations are about construction of joint refineries. The valuable experiences of Iran in construction of refineries and oil exploration and changing it into oil products is a main reason behind Vietnam's desire to have cooperation with Iran regarding production of oil products.

The significance of economic cooperation between the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and ASEAN was one of the issues stressed during the negotiations between the two countries' officials. The prevalent situation in the world makes the further cooperation of Third World and developing countries of the world — especially countries membering the Non-Aligned Movement — inevitable.

Under the situation where new economic and political poles are being formed, cooperation of the two countries within the framework of the ECO and ASEAN can expand. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his accompanying delegation, on the last stage of his visit to Vietnam, left Hanoi on Saturday October 7th to visit Ho Chi Minh city. The city is reminiscent of historical resistance of the Vietnamese people during the period of war and occupation of their country by the aggressor aliens. The Islamic Republic of Iran, having gone through eight years of imposed war with courage and honor, has something in common with Vietnam regarding its combats. Considering their similar points of views, Iran is willing to share and exchange its experience in all regards, especially reconstruction and technical and economic improvement after the war as well as preserving the values of the defense period.

Tehran Views Outlook for Relations

NC0710081595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Continuing his visit to Vietnam, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended a news conference in the Vietnamese capital yesterday and discussed the significance of the visit and of Iranian-Vietnamese economic accords. Referring to agreements on the purchase of rice, caoutchouc, and tea from Vietnam, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about the construction of a joint oil refinery and the transfer of Iranian knowhow in this field to Vietnam.

Despite the great geographic distance, Iran and Vietnam enjoy favorable grounds for cooperation because of their joint experience in the fight against colonialism and in defensive wars, as well as their extensive economic potential. As stated in Hashemi- Rafsanjani's interview, Vietnam's economic and agricultural potential can help to overcome some of Iran's foodstuffs needs and thus create the grounds for strong economic and trade relations; this is significant in view of the two countries' mutual wish to consolidate relations among independent countries and remove dependence on the industrial countries.

Vietnam, after several decades of direct struggle with aggressors and colonialists, is now at the start of a flourishing industrial era and needs to expand its economic potential. It can use Iran's experience in this field. The young oil industry in Vietnam and the presence of experienced oil experts in Iran can fill the vacuum in the oil industry in Southeast Asia and can help Vietnam to make the best possible use of its economic potential toward its progress and development. What makes the outlook of Iranian-Vietnamese economic cooperation brighter is the importance of these two countries as two major members of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and ASEAN and that they can ultimately play a sensitive role as a liaison point between these two important economic organizations.

Experts and political observers believe that in addition to consolidating the relations that started seriously with the visit by the Vietnamese prime minister to Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit will help to expand these relations. It will also help toward the success of the joint trade and industrial activities of these two important developing countries, which are zealously pursuing postwar reconstruction programs.

Ambassador Denies Italian Report on Diotoxin Purchases

LD0910143495 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 9 (IRNA) — The Iranian ambassador to Italy on Sunday [8 October] categorically denied a report published by an Italian paper claiming that Iran had bought 'diotoxin' a substance used for production of chemical and biological weapons.

The ambassador, Mohammd Hedayat-Zadeh termed the report published by the Milan-based daily IL GIORNO as a "mere lie."

The Italian paper, which is financially supported by Zionist circles, claimed in its Friday's issue that Iran had intended to import 'diotoxin' via the northern Italian city of Milan.

IL GIORNO, an ultra rightist paper, is well-known as a pro-Zionism paper in Italy.

The Iranian ambassador said that during the war years when the Islamic Republic of Iran was a victim of chemical weapons it never tried to produce such inhuman weapons let alone now when it is under normal conditions.

He added that Iran is a signatory to the convention banning the use of chemical weapons and is committed to the provisions of the convention more than other countries are.

Hedayat-Zadeh emphasized that those who are against Iran-Italy good and expanding ties spread such false rumours to influence Italy's foreign policy-making body.

'Diotoxin' which is a lethal substance used for production of some chemical and biological weapons is produced only in the U.S.

Protesters Clash With Revolutionary Guards

NC0810161095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from inside Iran, fierce confrontations have occurred in several Iranian cities between Iranian citizens and members of the Revolutionary Guard Corps. Demonstrations erupted yesterday in central, northern, and eastern Iran to protest the deterioration of economic conditions and poor services.

The opposition Voice of Mojahed radio reported that the northern and eastern Iranian provinces were also the scene of massive demonstrations by Iranian peasants protesting a 50-percent hike in the price of irrigation water. The radio added that the violent clashes, which occurred between the demonstrators and the Iranian Guards, left dozens wounded.

Seminar on Investment in Free Trade Zones Opens

LD0410125195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The seminar on investment opportunities in the free trade zones opened with a message from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. The seminar is being held at Tehran's international trade fair premises and those attending included Iranian and foreign industrialists and traders. In his message, which was read by Mr. Alviri, secretary of the Free Trade Zone Higher Council, the president stressed the pivotal role of the expansion of non-oil exports in the five year development plan. He states that, in its drive to increase the export of non-oil goods, the government will give every assistance and legal support to free trade zones and to special economic zones.

At the seminar, the managing directors of the Qeshm and Kish free zones, the Chabahar Free Port and the managing director of Kerman's Development Organization, pointed to the programs which are in progress and which aim to expand the activities of these zones.

They described as hopeful the future of trade and economic activities of the country's free trade and special economic zones.

Figures Cited on Military Equipment, Capabilities

NC2909122695 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Sep 95 p 4

[Second and last part of report by S.N. Amuzegar on interview with Lieutenant General of Staff Rahim Ebrahimi of the Classified Information Unit, Major General Ma'sumzadeh of the Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Unit, and Colonel Gholam Hoseyn Darbandi, commanders of the Army of Islam, by two unidentified TEHRAN TIMES correspondents; place and date not given; from the "Focus" column: "Modern Electronic Warfare Not a Serious Threat to Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] "In this regard we have reconstructed 1,328 tanks, 258 cannons, 39,026 communication units of various types, 2,031 road construction machines and 19,056 vehicles of various types, besides the 90 helicopters that I mentioned earlier."

The unit is also offering its technical services to neighboring countries; it has, for instance, reconstructed and modernized 450 tanks for the Pakistan Armed Forces within a four-year contract program.

"The significance of these activities would be better understood when we remember the sanctions imposed on our nation as of the victory of our revolution and exacerbated recently by the United States," said Ma'sumzadeh. "Due to these sanctions, most of the parts used in our factories are domestically manufactured."

Lieutenant Major Ma'sumzadeh reiterated once again that "We are now capable of defending our holy territory in case of any possible attacks or threats."

Lieutenant General Ebrahimi answered our next question regarding the defense power of our country in case of a military attack, particularly for holding back American forces which are unfortunately present in the region and have proven their animosity toward our revolution too often.

"We are fully alert today of all the possible threats against our revolution and, therefore, we constantly study and work out ways to remain the superior regional power that we have proven to be.

"The numerous war games in which we engage our forces at close intervals and the unique harmony between the Army and the Islamic Republic Guard Corps (IRGC) in the joint maneuvers and war games is truly promising.

"Besides all these factors I remind you of the situation of our armed forces when Iraq began its invasion. We were truly in the worst possible condition, due to the general chaos in the country, due to the purgatorial period of changing the regime from a monarchy to a newly established republic, the troubles caused in various parts of the country by the anti-revolutionary forces and the internal enemies and shortening the military service time from two years to one," said Ebrahimi. "Now that we are in an 'ideal situation' and we still enjoy the two factors that led to our superiority—a strong belief in God and unity among our nation—and a strong incentive, how could we lose in any defense?"

We then asked the commanders how serious they thought the Israel's threat to our nuclear facilities in Bushehr is, and what would our country's reaction be in case it happens.

Lieutenant General Ebrahimi replied: "Our defense in that area is maximum and very efficient."

Lieutenant Major Ma'sumzadeh said: "Any invader who would dare make such a silly move would pay dearly for it.

We then asked the gentlemen to talk a little bit of their sweet and bitter memories of the days of fire and blood of the Sacred Defense. [passage omitted]

They all recalled many situations in which the Iranian forces had very humanistically helped the injured Iraqi soldiers, and, on the other hand, the cruelty the enemy had shown toward our soldiers.

Our friendly conversation continued with interesting recollections of the combatants which we will save for individual presentation during Sacred Defense Week.

Pakistan

Report Addresses 'Essential' Nuclear Deterrence

BK1010094995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Shakil Shaikh — all quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Given the present geopolitical and strategic developments in South Asia, former chiefs of Pakistan armed forces, foreign and defence officials and experts resolved on Monday [9 October] that Nuclear deterrent is essential for national security".

This was agreed at the seven-hour meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence which met here with Senator Chaudhry [Ch] Shujaat Hussain in the chair.

Besides several other members, former foreign minister Agha Shahi, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Iftikhar Ahmad Sarohi, former air chief Zulfiqar Ali Khan, former vice chief of army staff Gen KM Arif, former DG ISI [Director General Inter Service Intelligence] Lt Gen. Hameed Gul, retired Air Marshal Ayaz Ahmad Khan, former foreign minister Abdul Sattar and foreign policy expert Shireen Mazari were invited to attend the meeting and express their views on vital national security matters.

The meeting was convened to take up the agenda of nuclear arms and missile proliferation in the region keeping in view the national security policy. To meet the challenge of growing threat from across the border, there is a dire need of Internal stability and unity as a key to stability," said Senator Ch Shujaat Hussain.

Addressing the committee meeting held at the Parliament Building, he said, there should be awareness and flow of information to the masses about a growing danger to the country's external and internal security. The economic stability is vital to national security without which no country can counter external threats."

The meeting was also attended by Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Raja Zafarul Haq, Khalilur Rehman, Sartaj Aziz, Tariq Chaudhry, Makhdoom Khaleequz Zaman ad Haji Gul Afridi. Surprisingly, Leader of the Upper House Malik Qasim did not turn up.

The speaker called for making national security stronger by strengthening Pakistan's nuclear programme.

They, however, expressed their dismay over the present situation prevailing in the country and criticised the government in almost all sectors. The poor national economy has made it quite difficult to meet defence demands," one of the speakers said in his address to the meeting.

The participants believed such consultations will help discuss important national security issues with a view to find out a solution to make the country's defence stronger.

The atmosphere in the meeting, said an insider, was highly critical of the government policies and its measures with regard to national security measures, internal law and order situation and economic policy, particularly the Karachi situation.

The speakers took up threats emanating from across the eastern and western borders of the country. Pakistan cannot match India in strength of armed forces and the best solution is the nuclear deterrent which Pakistan must maintain to keep India away," said one of the participants.

In general, a long discussion took place on the armed forces capabilities of Pakistan and India. The meeting decided that foreign and defence ministers should also be invited to the next meeting of the committee.

Commentary Views U.S. 'Change' Over Kashmir Issue

BK0810110395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Commentary by Yusuf Rafiq]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is a growing realization at the international level that the Kashmir dispute is a very serious issue, and it has to be resolved in the interest of peace in South Asia. This change is not only the success of Pakistan's foreign policy on Kashmir, but also demonstrates the positive outcome of Pakistan's honesty and sincerity with the Kashmir cause. Many nations around the world are now stressing the need to resolve the Kashmir dispute.

The United States feels that Pakistan stands in a very volatile situation, not only because of Kashmir but due to some other irritants also that may develop into some unpleasant eventuality; but the Kashmir issue is the gravest of them all. The statement given by a White House official is a clear witness to the new change. The official—while brushing aside the objections mounted by the Indians that an arms race would begin in the subcontinent if the bought military equipment was returned to Pakistan—justified the stipulated release of $368 million embargoed arms to Pakistan and rejected the notion that it represented a weakening of U.S. policy on nonproliferation.

The assertion was made by the special assistant to the U.S. President, David Johnson, while answering questions at a news briefing on U.S. foreign policy developments at the Foreign Press Center. He said nobody would question President Clinton's nonproliferation credentials. He maintained the administration continues to believe that it is in the best interest of the South Asian region to be nonnuclear and also continues to push this point of view that the issue is in all respects. [sentence as heard]

He also said that the Clinton Administration recognizes that Pakistan is in a fairly tough neighborhood, and there are a lot of security issues related to Pakistan which have nothing to do with nuclear weapons.

It was the first high-level response of the Clinton Administration to the Indian protests over the Brown Amendment and its likelihood of becoming a law to substantially dilute the Pressler Amendment, which has cut off economic and military assistance to Pakistan since

1990. There are a lot of security issues related to Pakistan which have nothing to do with nuclear weapons. The spokesman added that the Clinton Administration continues to believe that it is in the best interest of the region of South Asia to be a nonnuclear region. David Johnson explained that the Brown Amendment was trying to separate those aspects of the security package which might have conceivable implications for proliferation from those which do not. He reaffirmed that the administration does not believe that the release of the materials that would be possible under this legislation are a threat to the security of any other state in the region.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali had a meeting with the U.S. defense secretary, Mr. William Perry, in which the minister apprised the American official about the security situation in South Asia, with particular reference to the Kashmir issue. He reiterated Pakistani position on the issue and said that the Indian leadership has never responded positively to Pakistani proposals to resolve the issue through serious and meaningful dialogue. The foreign minister described the situation in the held-Kashmir as very bad and said that the Indians were putting in more and more troops, increasing the repression level, and trying to break the will of the Kashmiri people through force and brutality.

Commentary Hopes For 'Active' U.S. Kashmir Role

BK1010042695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is a sense of satisfaction in Islamabad over what is seen as a distinct and perceptible warming up of relations between Pakistan and the United States. There was a time not very long ago when Washington was in a mood to start treating Pakistan as a terror exporting country. On the nuclear issue, there was considerable lack of understanding of Pakistan's position. Now, it is officially noted that the clouds over Pakistan-U.S. relations have cleared and there is sunshine and optimism about the future. Hopefully, both sides would be able to build on this base an appropriate post-cold war structure of constructive cooperation.

As a friend of all states in the subcontinent, as the sole superpower in the world today, the United States remains a major player in the interplay among the nations in this region. But, Kashmir continues to be the core problem inhibiting the equation between the region's two major states is a fact recognized by the whole world. Pakistan has experienced three major conflicts with India on the Kashmir issue. It is still this smoldering fire which you never know may develop into something more serious and regrettable.

Of late, the United States interest and concern about the Kashmir dispute has given rise to some hopes that Washington may be moving toward playing an active and significant role. There is now a notable suggestion that the United States may be exploring the possibility of focusing on Kashmir in a positive and constructive way. Islamabad has taken the opportunity to state once again that it would be willing to commence a direct dialogue with India on all outstanding issues if Kashmir is at the top of the agenda. The reason to insist upon this condition is that Kashmir is at the bottom of all contentions between New Delhi and Islamabad. If any of the two parties or helpful friends shy away from this reality the whole exercise would be a sort of shadow boxing signifying nothing, or perhaps something worse than nothing.

The thinking in Islamabad seems to be that Pakistan should expect Washington to persuade in its newly initiated effort to be of help in resolving the Kashmir dispute and giving thereby peace a stable base in the South Asian region. It has been hinted in certain quarters in the United States that Washington may give Kashmir and related unresolved issues in the subcontinent a global perspective. The idea remains to be developed into a concrete enough shape to warrant any precise comment. However, what can perhaps be stated at this stage is that what Pakistan is seeking is basic international justice on which to place its relations with its gigantic neighbor. From Islamabad's point of view the crux of the matter is the right of self-determination for a people persistently deprived of it. So long, as the search is for a strategy or methodology to obtain that sacred objective, Pakistan will be quite happy to go along with it and play an active and positive part. It would be only reasonable to suggest in this context that with its standing in New Delhi and on the global level, the United States has a role pretty clearly cut out for it. Pakistan would like Washington to accept that leading role and play it.

Country Said To Have 'No Favorite' Afghan Group

BK0610145795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has no favorite among the different Afghan groups and it is only interested in peace and stability in their country, enabling 1.6 million Afghan refugees still in Pakistan to return to their homeland with honor and dignity. This was stated in the United Nations General Assembly last night by Pakistan's deputy permanent representative, Mr. Khalid Aziz Babar, while replying to the representative of the

Kabul regime. He said Pakistan had helped Afghanistan and its people during a very difficult period of their history. Pakistan did so at great cost and sacrifice. It played host to 3.5 million Afghans, including their leaders, for 14 long years. Pakistan, he said, continued to entertain the greatest sympathy for the brotherly people of Afghanistan.

Mr. Babar described the speech of the Afghan representative as wild accusations of a regime which was clinging to power despite the loss of support with its own population. He said a quick and early hand over of power alone would enable the Afghan people to choose a government which had their confidence and support.

Daily Reports on Expulsion of Afghan Envoy

BK1010084595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Oct 95 p 1, 9

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Pakistan Monday [9 October] ordered immediate expulsion of Mas'ud Khalili, a close aide and special envoy of Afghan President Prof Borhanoddin Rabbani after terminating his visa.

Confirming this to The News, Gul Hanif, the spokesman of the Foreign Office, said Khalili did not enjoy a diplomatic status. However, charges necessitating his expulsion were not specified.

He was not declared a persona non grata unlike over a dozen Afghan diplomats and staff working in its embassy in Islamabad and consulates in Karachi and Peshawar some time back.

To a question Hanif said no expulsion order had been issued for the members of Khalili's family, living in Pakistan. He denied that Khalili was taken into custody or interrogated before being expelled.

With the relations between Pakistan and the Rabbani government touching the lowest ebb, Islamabad has been communicating with Kabul through Khalili, who was Rabbani's special envoy for more than a year.

A day before the beating up of personnel of the Pakistan embassy in Kabul including the killing of one of them and ransacking of the mission, Pakistan had conveyed to Kabul through Khalili that its mission would be stormed.

Rahimullah Yusufzai adds from Peshawar Mahmood Khalili, son of the expelled diplomat, told The News that uniformed and plain clothed policemen took away his father from their Islamabad residence at 9 am.

He said the cops brought him back at 5 pm to enable him to change his clothes and collect some items of daily use.

They later drove my father to Peshawar and was to be taken to the border town of Torkham so that he could be deported," he informed. The government has yet to issue a statement concerning Khalili's deportation.

Khalili's son said that their family members would not return to Afghanistan. He declined to give the family's destination on the expiry of the 48-hour deadline but informed sources said they would be leaving for the United States. Khalili himself is expected to reach Kabul via Jalalabad.

Nasim Faqiri the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad, told The News that the Pakistan government did not give any reason for Khalili's arrest or deportation.

He insisted that Khalili was apprehended and kept for eight hours at an unknown place in Islamabad.

All our efforts to seek information from the Foreign Office in this context proved futile," he complained.

Defense Group's Karachi, Afghan Briefing Reported

BK0610105595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: While the ongoing efforts of the government to bring normality back to Pakistan's commercial capital remained the focus of attention, the Defence Committee of the Cabinet [DCC] here Wednesday [4 October] discussed threadbare the developments that have been taking place in Afghanistan.

The meeting which was presided over by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was attended by Defense and Interior Ministers, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Services Chiefs.

The quarterly review of defence and security matters according to official sources, at the DCC level Wednesday focused the Afghan situation, government efforts for bringing normality back to Karachi through negotiations, repeated violations committed by the Indian forces on the Line of Control (LoC), Brown Amendment and its impact on Pak-US relations and matters concerning, the Pakistan Armed Forces.

Highly-placed sources say Foreign Secretary Najamuddin Sheikh gave a briefing on the Afghan situation arising out of an unprovoked attack on Pakistani diplomats in Kabul recently. "The DCC took a serious note of this assault on the Pakistan embassy staff in Kabul and the Rabbani Administration's reported alignment with the Indians on a number of issues." The sources said there was consensus in the meeting that India is trying to play the Afghan card to divert attention from the Kashmir issue.

Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar briefed the meeting about the Karachi situation and the law-enforcing agencies' efforts for nabbing terrorists and law-breakers. "The situation has significantly improved following the concerted efforts of the govt," said the sources.

The DCC consultations also took up the recent developments that have taken place in Washington in respect of the country-specific Pressler Law. The meeting believed that once the Brown Law is passed and the Pakistan-owned equipment is released the Pak-US relations would be put back on track.

Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani informed the participants of the DCC about the repeated LoC violations by the Indian forces.

The meeting noted that it has always been the Indian side that tried to create a situation on the LoC. "Pakistan is a peace-loving country, which desires to settle interstate problems through instrument of peace," said the sources.

The meeting was informed that there has been scheduled no meeting between Prime Minister Bhutto and her Indian counterpart in Colombia. If the Indian Prime Minister comes to see Ms Bhutto for informal discussion, Pakistan would take a principled position of asking Rao to settle the Kashmir issue under UN resolutions," said the sources.

Government Building in Karachi Reportedly Attacked

Minister Comments on 'Dastardly Act'

BK0910103295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some unknown terrorists fired six rocket-propelled grenades at the New Sindh Secretariat in Karachi this afternoon. According to reports, the grenades, which were fired from a moving car, hit the back portion of the building, causing damage to the Secretariat building and shattering windowpanes; however, there is no report of any person being killed or injured.

Talking to newsmen at the site of the incident, Sindh Irrigation Minister Haji Zafar Ali Leghari described this incident as a dastardly act. He said the government will not be browbeaten by such acts of terrorism. He said Pakistan is our country, and it is the duty of every Pakistani citizen to identity the elements who are involved in antinational activities.

The provincial irrigation minister said an investigation will be conducted into the incident to ascertain whether there was any slackness in the enforcement of security measures. He said steps will be taken to tighten security measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Minister Calls Attack 'Open Terrorism'

BK0910135495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three persons received minor injuries when five rockets were fired at two floors of New Sindh Secretariat building in Karachi today. The attack came from three directions. According to APP, all the rockets were fired within a few minutes, hitting the Cabinet Committee Room, damaging windowpanes and furniture of adjacent office housing Sindh health minister [as heard] at seventh floor, gutting and damaging several filing rooms at fifth floor. An official of bomb disposal squad said the rockets were RPG-7 of Russian make, which have an effective range of 300 to 500 meters. Windscreens and windowpanes of several vehicles parked in the backyard of the building were also damaged because of the explosion caused by the rocket launching.

The Sindh chief minister, Syed Abdullah Shah, who visited the site, later told the newsmen that this is an open terrorism, and all of us must condemn it. He said that in the recent past there has been considerable improvement in the overall law and order situation, mainly due to steps taken by the government. He reiterated that government would continue to fight out terrorism from the city at all costs.

Bhutto Summons Minister for Report

BK1010090395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah was summoned to the federal capital by the Prime Minister soon after the rocket attacks on Sindh Secretariat.

Chief Minister at once drove to the airport and left for Islamabad to meet the Prime Minister.

The Chief Minister left for Islamabad at about 4pm soon after inspecting the site of Sindh Secretariat. The Chief Minister will give first hand report to the Prime Minister and the steps taken by the local administration to curb lawlessness.

It is to be noted here that at the end of peace week organised by the Sindh government, the worst incident took place in the city.

The prime minister, it is said, has expressed her deep concern over the situation and asked the Chief Minister to probe into the matter.

The Sindh PPP [Pakistan's People's Party] had already arranged to celebrate the completion of two successful years of the PPP government and this unfortunate incident has shocked the entire government.

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